



## SCREEN VIOLENCE

Why Hollywood is the main culprit

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## WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Why I voted against the Tories

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Section

# THE TIMES

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45p

## Fears as mad cow death toll goes on rising

By MICHAEL HORNSBY  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

THE number of cattle dying from the "mad cow" disease is still rising 18 months after government scientists predicted that within a year new cases of the fatal brain condition would start to fall rapidly.

The agriculture ministry insists the epidemic is under control, even though confirmed deaths from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) are averaging 885 a week compared with 675 this time last year.

This week the disclosure of the death of a dairy farmer from a rare dementia belonging to the same family of diseases renewed fears of possible cross-infection from animals to humans. The evidence for this is tenuous at best, but the continuing high toll of cattle is indisputable.

Kevin Taylor, the assistant chief veterinary officer, said yesterday: "We did miscalculate the number of animals that would be affected, but we are still confident we have eliminated the source of the infection and that the disease will eventually disappear."

BSE was diagnosed in November 1986. Since then the available data for figures, more than 100,000 cattle, almost all dairy cows, were slaughtered and destroyed, after showing symptoms of the disease. BSE was confirmed in 87,175. There are 2.7 million dairy cattle in Britain.

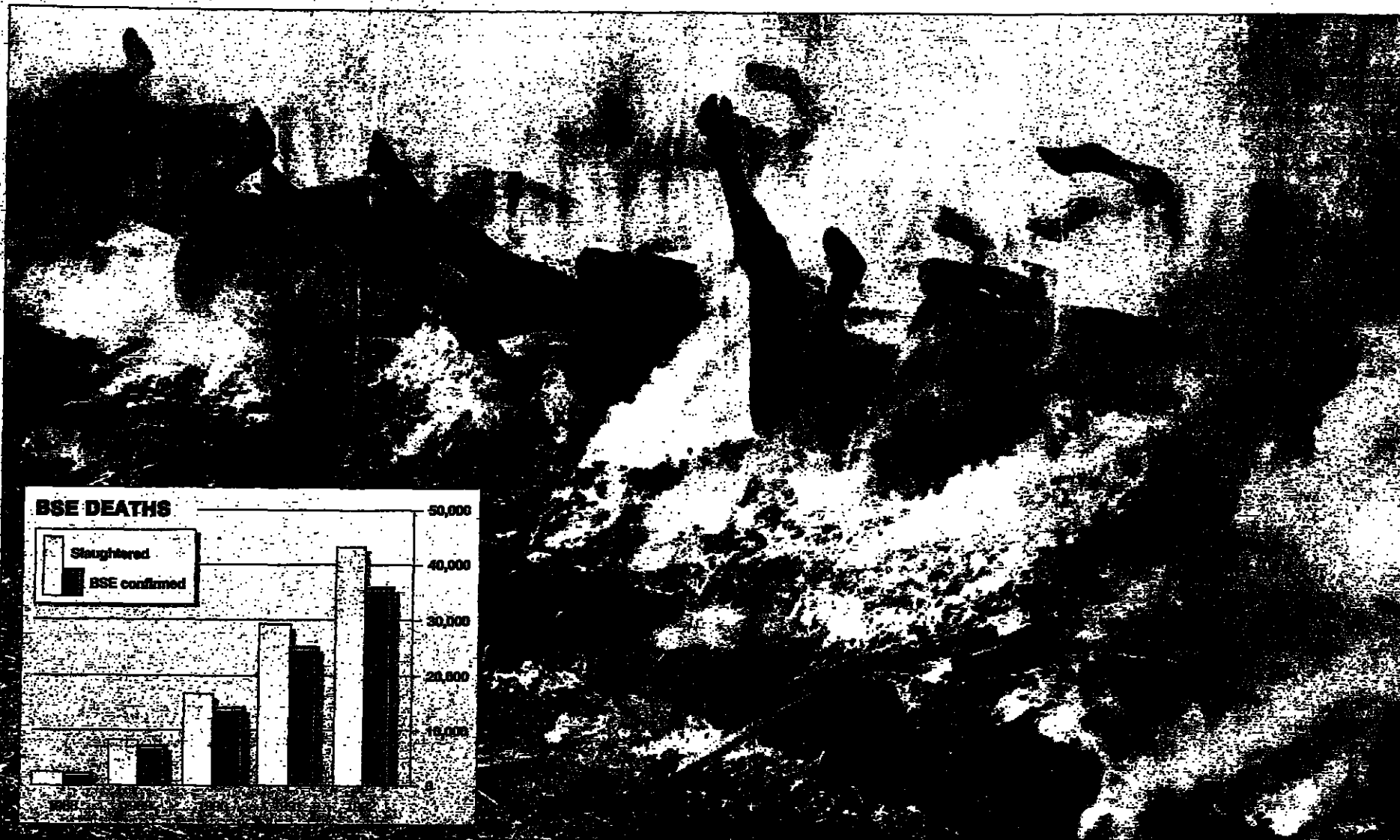
Four years ago the Southwood report on BSE predicted the incidence of the disease would peak at 17,000-20,000 cases in 1993 and start to tail off. Ever since, the government and its advisers have underestimated the scale of the epidemic.

Scientists at the Central Veterinary Laboratory are confident that they have correctly identified the source of BSE as high-protein cattle feed derived in part from the ground-up remains of sheep infected with scrapie.

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End of the line: BSE-infected cattle being destroyed after slaughter. Between November 1986 and last week over 100,000 cattle, almost all dairy cows, have been burnt

## West rallies to aid besieged Yeltsin

FROM ANNE McELVOY  
IN MOSCOW

THE West rallied behind President Yeltsin last night as he grappled with a constitutional crisis that raised the spectre of a return to direct rule from the Kremlin.

The Russian leader's spokesman hinted that he was contemplating such a move to protect his economic reform programme after coming under sustained attack at an emergency meeting of the Congress of People's Deputies. At the same time, Britain lined up alongside France and America in calling for urgent talks among the Group of Seven industrialised nations on helping the reform process and bolstering Mr Yeltsin's battle to stay in power.

Mr Yeltsin survived his biggest challenge yesterday when moves to throw out his proposals for a power-sharing deal or a referendum on who should run the country failed to muster enough support. But he came under ferocious attack from prominent conser-

## Britain and the United States want the West to bolster Boris Yeltsin. The Russian leader has held off hardliners in Congress but the real test comes today

vatives and his spokesman said later that he was "facing a firing squad set up by the leadership of the parliament". Vyacheslav Kostikov said Congress was "crossing the last frontier" and pushing the country towards a new pro-communist dictatorship. He added that yesterday's attack was "impelling the president towards deep and tragic deliberations over what decision he must take to save reforms and democracy", a hint that he was ready to set the constitution aside and suspend Congress if it blocked his reforms.

Mr Yeltsin had arrived at the Kremlin Palace smiling and speaking of a 50-50 chance of resolving the power clash amicably, but his mood darkened after a succession of fierce speeches. Russian Khasbulatov, the Congress speaker, led the attack, accusing the president of flagrantly disdaining the constitution, ruining the economy and trying to drag the military into politics. Nikolai Ryabov, the deputy speaker, followed up by mocking the president's authority, saying that no referendum would be held without Congress's agreement and any attempt by Mr Yeltsin to bypass it could lead to his impeachment.

Mr Yeltsin wants Congress to approve either his proposals for power sharing or a referendum next month on who rules Russia in an attempt to break the deadlock that is hampering reform. A resolution barring either failed to achieve the required majority, but a redrawn version is likely to be brought back today.

Mr Yeltsin had earlier suf-

fered another setback when deputies refused to discuss power sharing, insisting on limiting debate to the referendum and an examination of the president's compliance with the constitution. The latter would allow hardliners the option of calling for Mr Yeltsin to be impeached on the ground that he had flouted the constitution by bypassing the legislature on policy decisions, although even hardliners admitted last night that they did not expect this Congress to impeach the president.

Observers in the West are nevertheless viewing Mr Yeltsin's constitutional difficulties with alarm and John Major last night signalled support for President Clinton's proposed G7 initiative to assist the Russian economic reform process, although Britain is opposed to a summit that could be "all show and no action". All are agreed that G7 cannot wait until its annual summit in July to discuss further aid for Russia.

Ragbag of ideas, page 13

## Labour launches new offensive over Maastricht

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE prime minister is facing the prospect of six more defeats on Maastricht after Labour yesterday named new amendments that it is to push to the vote in the Commons.

With backing from the Liberal Democrats and Tory rebels, Labour believes that it can score a series of victories against John Major on moves to improve the democratic accountability of the Maastricht process. The move, decided at yesterday's meeting of the parliamentary Labour party, follows threats that the Commons may be asked to sit all weekend on the Maastricht bill.

Labour believes that all the amendments to be pressed to a vote are in the same category as the successful one carried against the government by 22 votes on Monday. If approved they would embarrass the government but not wreck the treaty, which Labour is committed not to do.

Last night the Liberal Democrats, who will again determine the government's fate, said they saw little to object to in the amendments, although

they are to keep the government guessing on their tactics for each vote.

Nicholas Budgen, a prominent Tory Euro-skeptic, today accuses party bosses of behaving like Communists. In an article in *The Times*, he says that David Liddington, a senior whip, encouraged Rosanne Williams, his constituency chairman, to appear on television to undermine his position in Wolverhampton South West.

A spokesman for Conservative Central Office said: "As Mr Budgen knows full well, his constituency chairman is an independent lady and does not need advice before she appears on television."

The feuding inside the Tory ranks flared yesterday as backbench government loyalists canvassed support for a round robin letter in effect calling for the resignation from the 1922 executive of Sir George Gardiner and Sir Ivan Lawrence, who have continued to defy the whips.

Danish threat, page 8  
Nicholas Budgen, page 20

## Five-month silence on death of Aids doctor defended

By Jeremy Laurance  
HEALTH SERVICES  
CORRESPONDENT

A HEALTH authority concealed from the public for five months that one of its doctors had died from an Aids-related illness, it emerged yesterday.

Dr Peter Clayton, a junior hospital doctor in Mid Glamorgan, died last October, but the health authority decided not to release the cause of his death to prevent alarm and "protect confidentiality".

The case became public after an anonymous tip-off to a local newspaper following publicity about Terence Shuttlesworth, the HIV-infected gynaecologist in Kent. Mid Glamorgan Health Authority set up telephone helplines yesterday to advise Dr Clayton's former patients and promised HIV tests for anyone who wanted them.

Dr Bill Smith, director of public health, denied that the authority had tried to cover up the cause of death. He said he had made a balanced judgement in the best interests of the 534,000 people living in the area. "It is my belief that not one single individual is at risk as a consequence of my not making it public knowledge," he said.

The Welsh Office said it first learnt of the case on Tuesday but it was satisfied that the health authority was "handling the matter competently". However, the health



Clayton: not clear how he contracted virus

department in London, which is responsible for health authorities in England, said it would be concerned by such a delay. "We would expect to be informed of a case like this on the basis that the secretary of state is accountable to Parliament."

Dr Clayton, 28, who was married to a nurse, had worked at several South Wales hospitals and a GP practice since leaving medical school in 1987. In 1988 he worked at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff and in 1989-90 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Cardiff. It is not known when or how he contracted HIV.

## Fire safety under review

By TONY DAWE AND JACK CROSSLEY

FIRE safety legislation in Britain is to be reviewed and the issue of crown immunity will be examined.

Sir Clive came under strong attack from MPs. Kim Howells, Labour MP for Pontypool, asked him if he had "seen reports in *The Times* describing the government as the worst fire safety managers in the country". Sir Clive admitted that the government had allowed a backlog of fire safety certificate applications to build up but was now working through it.

accounts committee, the issue of crown immunity will be examined.

Letters, page 21



Fish wars, page 2

## IRA explosives find thwarts car bomb plot

By STEWART TENDER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AN IRA plot to reassert its terrorist strength with a huge car bomb in London, containing up to 800lb of explosive, was thwarted by the discovery of a cache, Scotland Yard sources said yesterday.

Between 500lb and 800lb of home-made explosive was found in a rented garage in Pages Lane near Muswell Hill, north London, ready for use in a spring terrorist offensive. The car bomb would have been the same size as the device that wrecked the Baltic Exchange in the City of

London almost a year ago, killing three and causing damage estimated at £800 million.

The discovery on Tuesday confirmed police fears that the IRA has been planning to move away from small attacks to much larger blasts. Anti-terrorist officers believe the IRA wants to show it is still capable of hitting London hard in spite of the discoveries of explosives and arms by police.

More than 20lb of military explosive was found in Nottingham two weeks ago in parcels ready to be attached to devices. A further 30lb of

explosive and firearms were found last week at a flat in Stoke Newington, northeast London. Two men at the flat have been charged in connection with the Harrods bomb.

Scotland Yard said the cache of explosive, made from fertiliser, found on Tuesday was uncovered by officers from the anti-terrorist branch. A car was also in the garage but police ruled out reports that a target list or map had been found suggesting that the IRA was planning to attack Buckingham Palace or Downing Street.

The garage had been rented for some months. The car was

bought for cash through an advertisement in a newspaper. The garage also contained tools but no detonators.

There have been a number of attacks across north London in the past year. The find is close to where a bomb exploded in a car park at Woodside Park Underground station last autumn.

The explosive would have been moved from the garage by an active service unit and loaded on to a vehicle with several kilograms of Semtex military explosive, which would increase the detonation.

Talks rejected, page 2

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MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

## Security lapses again as Blair evades roadblock

Security dominated yesterday's debate. Tory MPs joined MPs from Northern Ireland and crowded into the Chamber to hear the home secretary outline a strategy for dealing with the most insidious danger Her Majesty's government has faced in decades: now a daily threat which every member of the Cabinet, from the prime minister downwards, must live with.

Clarke was to unveil the centrepiece of the government's defences. It is called the Prevention of Terrorism Bill (Exclusion of Sound Bites) Bill (1993).

With every month that passes Blair becomes more dangerous. Well-dressed, well-spoken, good-looking and immensely plausible, Labour's principal home affairs spokesman is just the sort of smoothie to lull the British public into forgetting that they are playing with fire. Confronted by the manicured moderation of a man like Blair smiling into the television cameras, it is all too easy for ordinary citizens watching from home to overlook the ruthless tendencies of the underground organisation he fronts.

In recent weeks, at the dispatch box and at Any Questions sessions up and down the country, Blair has been posing as the policeman's friend, deploring crime and holding himself out as guardian and protector of every little old lady in the land. He has even smooth-talked his way into the *Daily Mail*. "I'm Tony Blair," he announces, seldom mentioning who has sent him. Elderly, naïve or confused electors have been inviting him into their living rooms, many quite unaware that he is not a Conservative. Charming like this must be denied the oxygen of publicity.

This was the scale of Kenneth Clarke's task yesterday, and MPs knew it. A handful, it is true, thought

the IRA were the threat they had come to confront, but few are so glib. MPs on both sides know very well that statute is an uncertain weapon against terrorism, and are unsure they know the answer. Labour says this openly. Behind the rhetoric, many Tories, too, are surprisingly diffident about counter-terrorist tactics.

But diffidence was suspended yesterday for the launch of something more urgent: counter-Blair tactics. The Tory whips had called in all their backbench dogs, to bark a none-too-subtle message that Labour is soft on terrorism.

Clarke's measures are divided into sections, for the more brutal of which he employs the dogs, standing clear himself. Part I (Proscribed Organisations) consists in pretending that the mainstream of the Labour party has IRA leanings. This is left to the dogs. Clarke only insinuates, insisting yesterday that Blair was "unwittingly" helping the IRA. Part II (Exclusion Orders) arranges for no minister to be available when TV editors require a Tory to "balance" Blair. So the item is scrapped.

Unfortunately the government has not yet found a way of banning Blair from the Chamber itself. He kept getting up and sounding reasonable. His blue suit was beautifully cut, his shoes shiny and his posture good. His hair was perfect. He made the Tories look like the men of violence. "It's no good standing up and looking steamy-eyed," snapped Clarke, plainly exasperated. But that was the problem: it was good. Blair is good. His case against parts of the Act was perfectly arguable. To imply that this was unpatriotic was plumb stupid. Clarke was left manning a useless roadblock while, once again, the wily Blair had slipped through his net.

## Minister tells fishermen to stop copying the French

By IAN MURRAY

FISHERMEN in Milford Haven tipped 200 boxes of French-caught cod across a dockside auction hall yesterday in protest at their exports to France being blocked.

Their leaders later said that it was a publicity stunt staged for the television cameras, but David Curry, the fisheries minister, condemned the action and gave a warning that a fish war would harm everyone.

The protest comes after a week in which hundreds of fishermen fought riot police in Nantes. Grimsby fishermen blockaded two lorry loads of French fish at the docks, and trawlermen at Peterhead poured diesel oil on a Russian vessel's catch.

Mr Curry told the Commons yesterday that recent French action against British fish imports was "stupid and morally offensive" but he warned British fishermen against any further retaliation. "There is no earthly purpose in our reading the riot act to the French government, as we have done, if we then see it in the UK."

An agreement had been secured at the end of last week that the French would protect consignments of fish and shellfish sent by ferry from UK ports, he said. "I believe the arrangements will be effective. Ministers will continue to follow the position daily and won't hesitate to intervene."

About 50 shellfishermen at Milford Haven tipped over

three tonnes of cod landed for sorting from the French trawler *Agenda*. Most was later replaced in the boxes unharmed. There were no arrests.

Phil Brooks, spokesman of the Shellfishermen's Association at the port, said that he agreed with the Mr Curry, but added: "It's amazing how the problems we face seem to be resolving themselves in the few hours since we mounted our demonstration." He admitted that the protest was a publicity stunt.

Mr Brooks said the fishermen decided to act because most of their catch of crabs and lobsters was usually exported to France, where it was being blocked by militant French action. Of the three buyers who exported to France, one had had his lorry broken into and a cargo damaged, one had been threatened and the third had had to travel through Belgium to reach customers.

"When they see big French stern draggers pulling in we get annoyed. The livelihoods of 70 men are at stake. We had to make a gesture. At the same time we have some sympathy with the French. They have wives and mortgages to look after and just like us they are being hit by cheap imports from Russia and the Argentine."

He said that during a meeting with the French crew after the protest yesterday, the shellfishermen had managed to make their point of view understood and he hoped that it would now be possible to resume exports.

Richard Banks, chairman of the National Federation of Fisheries Organisations, said: "We can't endorse violence but it is difficult for me to persuade the fishermen that they should welcome the French fishing boats in with open arms when they are losing between 30 to 40 per cent of their income thanks to French action. A drop of that size in your pay is bound to make you very concerned."



Curry: a fish war would harm everyone

## Ford staff join list of potential strikers

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

WHITE-COLLAR workers at Ford yesterday voted to hold their first national strike if the company goes ahead with planned compulsory redundancies. Union leaders claimed a strike would have a "tremendous impact" on Ford, with systems analysts, computer programmers, clerical staff and sales representatives taking part.

Last December Ford called for between 2,000 and 2,200 white-collar redundancies before the end of this month and the unions believe that nearly 2,000 workers have volunteered. Ford told the Commons employment committee last night that the shortfall was as low as 162 jobs.

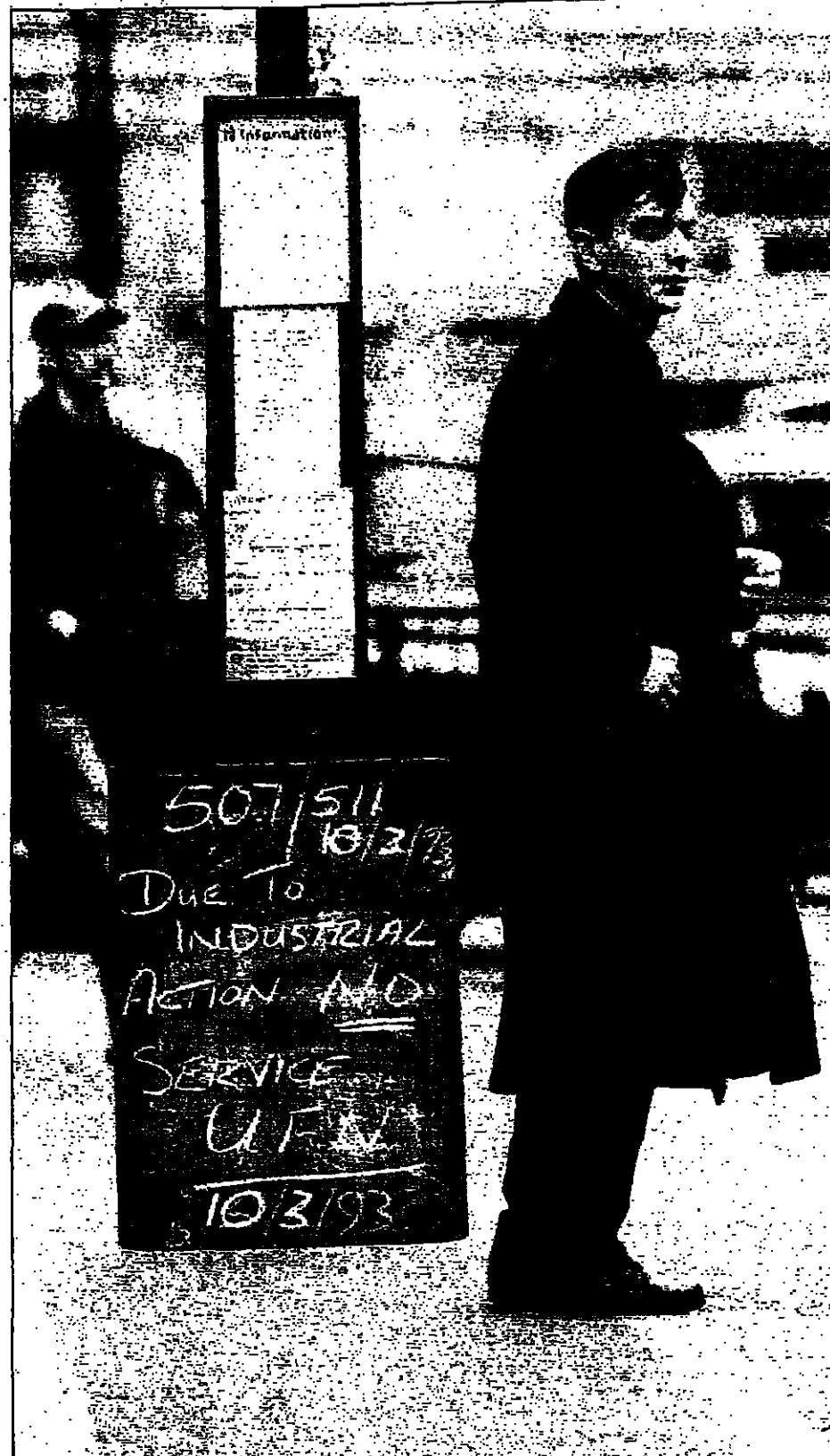
The small size of the shortfall, which may yet be absorbed by voluntary applications, and the close votes for a strike may mean that a white-collar strike will not take place.

Members of the Manufacturing Science and Finance (MSF) union voted 64 per cent in favour of a strike. Only half of its 6,500 members at Ford voted in the ballot, in which there was 83 per cent support for action short of a stoppage. Members of the white-collar section of the Transport and General Workers Union voted by 53 per cent in favour of a strike. 82 per cent supported industrial action short of a walk-out.

Jim Thomas, national officer of the MSF union, said: "This gives us a very clear mandate, which Ford cannot ignore. Our members are strongly expressing the view that there must be no compulsory redundancies." Bob Purkiss, TGWU national officer, called on Ford to extend its redundancy deadline.

Leaders of Ford's manual workers will meet the company today to discuss job losses, and they could call a strike ballot if the company seeks compulsory redundancies.

Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, is expected to propose to the union's national executive meeting in Sheffield today a date — likely to be April 2 — for the 24-hour strike that members voted for.



Long wait: a frustrated traveller at the Victoria station terminus takes stock

Leaders of Nacods, the pit deputies' union, will declare today the result of a strike ballot of its 4,000 members. It looks unlikely to have gained the two-thirds majority required for a strike.

In London, some bus services continued to run yesterday in spite of a 24-hour strike by drivers and conductors over pay and working hours. Services in south London were worst hit by the action, which the TGWU claimed was backed by 98 per cent of staff at London Buses Ltd. But the company said that more than a third of its services were running and dismissed the action as a flop.

The strike was in protest at average £30-a-week pay cuts and extended hours imposed on 7,000 drivers and conductors in return for a one-off payment of £3,000. London Buses said the package was needed to enable it to compete with operators in the private sector.

The TGWU, which is planning a further stoppage and protest march next Wednesday, said its members were determined to fight on even though many have already signed the new contracts for fear of losing their jobs.

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## Clarke rejects talks on terrorism act

By ROBERT MORGAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

KENNETH Clarke last night rejected Labour calls for talks on revising the Prevention of Terrorism Act and condemned continuing opposition to anti-terrorism laws.

The home secretary accused Labour of unintentionally giving encouragement to the IRA and other terrorist groups through traditional objections to the law, and was now "scratching around" to justify its actions.

Labour used the annual Commons debate on renewing the act to call for cross-party talks on removing the seven-day detention of suspects and exclusion orders preventing suspects travelling between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland. Mr Clarke insisted that the two provisions that Labour wants dropped were vital in the fight against terrorism.

Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, complained that the present law allowed the home secretary to make decisions on suspects when such rulings should be made by a judge. The act was offensive to the general rule "that deprivation of civil liberty should be through the courts".

He claimed that Labour's objections were not designed to weaken the fight against terrorism but were aimed at ensuring that anti-terrorist powers were taken away from politicians and given to the courts.

The renewal order, Mr Clarke said, was being debated against the background of recent success for the police and security forces in finding IRA explosives. That success

was based on the use of the powers in the Prevention of Terrorism Act. He found it extraordinary that Mr Blair and fellow shadow ministers should come forward with proposals for talks on the act based on the precondition that the two most important parts of it be dropped.

Mr Blair rounded on Conservatives who opposed Labour's attempts to challenge the government, saying that their refusal to listen to alternative arguments was "quite distasteful". He accused them of wanting to rubber stamp the law each year without giving due consideration to powers which "are virtually unique in the western world."

"If we accept that any act brought by the government must be supported in its entirety without questioning, and that anyone who dares question it is a closet supporter of terrorism, then we do not strengthen the fight against terrorism, we weaken the fight against terrorism."

The act was introduced by Labour in 1974 in the aftermath of the Birmingham pub bombings but in 1982 Labour changed its view and started to vote against its renewal. Mr Clarke said he had hoped that Mr Blair would get the Labour party away from the policy of his predecessors.

Roy Hattersley, the former Labour deputy leader, who was shadow home secretary for several years, pressed for a judicial review when suspects were held for more than 48 hours.

A motion to renew the act for a further 12 months was carried by 329 votes to 202.

## Public school 'louts' barred from pub

Pupils at Marlborough College have been barred from a local public house after claims of loutish behaviour. Students from the Wiltshire public school were accused of deliberately smashing glasses, pouring tomato sauce over tables and being obnoxious to bar staff after a rowdy drinking session at the Green Dragon.

Tim Ward, manager of the pub, said he had grown increasingly fed up at the behaviour of Marlborough pupils. The boys had shown a total lack of manners, he said. "They are arrogant, they seem to show no remorse for their conduct and they talk down to the bar staff like lackeys."

Jeremy Woodhouse, the Marlborough registrar, said the college, which had had good relations with the town, took the allegations seriously. Pupils aged 18 were allowed in pubs on Saturday night and Sunday lunchtime but subject to strict conditions, including the carrying of identity cards.

## Exhibition success

More than 250,000 people have now seen the Royal Armouries' Civil War exhibition, sponsored by *The Times*, which marks the 350th anniversary of hostilities between king and parliament. The display, which includes more than 60 prime exhibits, is currently at the Corinium Museum in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, until March 28. More than 16,000 people have visited the exhibition in the Cotswold town, which was itself stormed by the royalist cavalry commander, Prince Rupert, in 1643.

## Crane gang wins £2m

Ten crane operators have won a pools jackpot of more than £2 million. The "Crane Gang" — as the men who work at Llanwrn steelworks near Newport, Gwent, call their syndicate — will share £2,055,559.40. The group, all from the Newport area, won with an 8-from-11 perm costing £1.98. Although the win is the first since the pools companies changed their rules two weeks ago to increase the chances of big wins, Littlewoods said it would have been a jackpot week under the old system anyway.

## Air passenger total rises

The number of passengers using Britain's main airports was 2.6 per cent higher in February than in the same month last year. Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Southampton, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen airports handled 8.3 per cent more people in the 12 months to February than in the previous year.

Travel, pages 18-19

## Teachers urged to scrap boycott

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, appealed yesterday to leaders of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers to withdraw their threat to boycott national curriculum testing when they meet tomorrow to plan their campaign. Mr Patten, who had addressed a CBI conference on the schools league tables, expressed confidence that this year's tests would be completed and the results published as planned. He said he took comfort from the fact that the other five teaching unions recognised their legal responsibility to carry out the work.

"Any militant action of the type being threatened will first of all damage children's education and do terrible damage to the professional standing and status of teachers," he said. "The union's executive has some serious thinking to do on Friday."

A CBI report proposed education vouchers for all 16-year-olds to spend on a unified range of courses. It said education in the 16-19 age range was the "Achilles heel" of British education.

A report headed "Tony Blair doctor asks pro-life groups to abandon protests" (March 5), stated that James Morrow was a "former Scottish Roman Catholic priest". We have been asked to make it clear that the Rev James Morrow is still in holy orders and has belonged to the diocese of Paisley since his ordination. We apologise to Father Morrow for this error.



Hollywood, sex and violence: cinema reflects America's uncertainty over the sins of the 80s

# Moral backlash rocks Tinseltown's power brokers

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN NEW YORK

SOMETHING strange is happening in the ever-changing moral universe that is Hollywood. The actress Kim Basinger, long celebrated for taking her clothes off on celluloid, has been taken to court because she will now only perform "artistic nudity". Clint Eastwood, who has probably killed more people in more films than any other actor, now says he believes films are too violent. At the end of his new film about fishing, *A River Runs Through It*, Robert Redford adds a note that no fish were actually killed in the course of making the film.

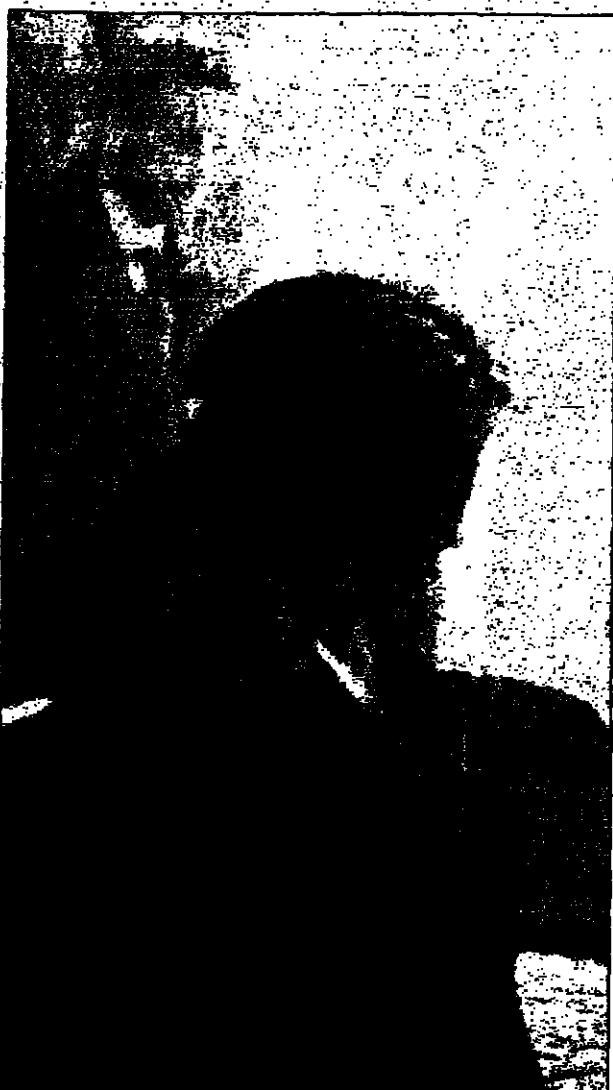
While almost everyone agrees that the portrayal of graphic sex, extreme violence, and the wholesale slaughter of fish is unwelcome, Hollywood's renewed sense of moral responsibility is, for some critics, evidence of a creeping political correctness and proof that the film industry is abandoning interesting films in favour of moral ones.

In fact, Hollywood's self-proclaimed return to the moral high ground more clearly reflects the powerful uncertainty that has gripped American popular culture in the 1990s. Hollywood's determination (if such it be) to exorcise the sins of the past reflects not so much a crusading zeal as a profound guilt.

While millions more people will watch *The Terminator* than *A River Runs Through It*, this does not alter the fact that the American public is in a state of panic over the degeneration of its culture and desperately in need of reassurance that the depraved films it watches so avidly are not a true reflection of American society's real values.

Not for the first time in its history, America is suffering from a moral malaise as television pumps out a daily diet of rising crime, violence and vice. Hollywood must be the most trend-prone society on earth, and the somewhat po-faced moral concern now being exhibited by the stars is clearly a response to the brooding sense of decay that currently hangs over much American culture.

But what Hollywood is already calling "sex sensitivity" hardly represents a new genre. In the 1980s, for



Out of favour: films featuring sex and violence, such as Kim Basinger's *9½ Weeks* and *Death Wish 3*, are off the Hollywood agenda

example, concern over the environment spawned a vast array of films about mutant bees, frogs and so on, and no doubt heightened our awareness of the dangers of human interference with the planet. Similarly, disaster movies such as *Towering Inferno* and *Earthquake* reflected a new preoccupation with man's over-reliance on technology and his impotence before natural forces. More recently, film-makers have begun to produce films dealing with the sensitive subject of AIDS.

America has not felt so overwhelmed by its problems since the 1930s when, it might be noted, some Americans sought to control the content of films by regulation. In the words of the 1930 production code: "No picture shall be produced which will lower the

moral standards of those who see it." The 1930s was a time of uncertainty and change, not unlike our own tortured 1990s, and when the chips are down, ethical guidelines begin to sprout.

Ecologically aware films apart, the 1980s was a decade of fantastic excess in the film industry, as in most other areas of American life: the public gorged on visions of sex and violence, with a plethora of films portraying, and in some cases glorifying, hedonism, self-indulgence and moral abandon.

It is not just in the area of film that America is suffering from a massive cultural hangover, a trapezoidal feeling of collective over-indulgence and a painful need to introduce a painful quotient into daily life. Recent surveys show that as

their society appears to be fracturing, Americans are saving more money, attending church more often, spending more time with their families and working harder; it is surely no accident that this should coincide with a move towards greater responsibility on the part of film-makers, purveyors of the second most powerful cultural medium in the country after TV.

Greater responsibility in film-making is a trend that will last, without being too cynical, as long as America feels badly about itself. However, the emphasis on morality in film-making has a worrying side effect: it seems to encourage film-makers to find a moral in every story. This is particularly evident in the biopic genre, which effectively began with *Attenborough's*

*Gandhi* and has been going downhill ever since. So important has it become for American film-makers to find moral heroes, it seems, that facts, truth, and reality are often relegated to second place.

Oliver Stone's film *JFK* is a case in point, where the facts were virtually abandoned to accommodate one man's conspiracy theory. The most recent and egregious example is Danny De Vito's film *Hoffa*. By any standards, *Jimmy Hoffa*, the Teamsters' union boss, was a supremely interesting and morally repugnant person. But in the film, plainly desperate to find a morale-boosting moral in Hoffa's sordid life, the character emerges not as a power-crazed crook but as a hero. Similarly, the more dubious elements in Malcolm X's life are largely

obscured in Spike Lee's hero worshipping film.

History does not always provide easy moral lessons and the craving for role models has produced some inaccurate results. Most Americans, for example, now believe that Malcolm X and Jimmy Hoffa were saints, and that the FBI murdered John F. Kennedy.

America badly needs moral figureheads at the moment, and if the new emphasis on morality produces heroes who do not necessarily have to kill to get into the box office, so much the better. The danger, however, is that combining history, film, and hagiography can make heroes when none exists.

Valerie Groves interviews Michael Medved, scourge of Hollywood, tomorrow

## Wheeler-dealers who live by word of mouth

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

THE sniggering that surrounded Kim Basinger's remark on the opening day of the trial that "the more flesh you show, the further up the ladder you go" turned more serious when her former agent went on the record in a Los Angeles court.

He admitted that a Hollywood agent's word is not his bond and that a movie contract is generally worth the paper it is written on.

Miss Basinger, who starred in *Batman* and *9½ Weeks*, is being sued for \$6.4 million (£4.5 million) by Main Line Pictures, who claim that she dropped out of the lead role in the movie *Batman Returns*, about a woman whose legs are amputated by a surgeon and kept in a box, only four weeks before filming began, having committed herself fully to the role.

Miss Basinger, 38, was looking morose and deliberately unlike the blonde star of her latest film, *Cool World*, an animated feature in which she plays herself.

She says she dropped out of *Batman Returns* because she now considers only roles that include "artistic" rather than "graphic" nudity. Miss Basinger appeared nude in *Playboy* in 1991 and afterwards said she would "do it again tomorrow morning".

Hollywood insiders raised their eyebrows at her comments, sniffing that the *Batman Returns* project appealed to Miss Basinger as it was clearly meant to be an "art house" film, directed by Jennifer Lynch, daughter of the British director David Lynch. After her role was played by Sherrylyn Fenn and also with Julian Sands, it played at the ultra-trendy independent Sundance Film Festival in Utah in January.

The case is likely to be set

a precedent in Hollywood. It is being watched closely by insiders since the legal status of an agent's word affects virtually all deals made in the town.

In Hollywood, where a letter seems about as ancient as a papyrus scroll, all business is completed on the telephone or at power lunches. Recording conversations is illegal.

At top agents' offices such as ICM, where Miss Basinger's former agent Bill Block is a partner, the agents sit around wearing popstar-style telephone headsets, looking like a cross between the early Star Trek characters and mission controllers in Houston, touting for business for their clients and logging up to 250 calls a day.

Mr Block, a superagent, is something of a Tinseltown sub-celebrity after appearing in *Vanity Fair* recently. He said on Tuesday that during the time he was Miss Basinger's agent, no deal was concluded for her to perform in *Batman Returns*.

"There's a difference between 'making a deal' and 'closing a final deal'," said Mr Block, who said that at the time he was also "positioning" his client for other roles in such films as *Death Becomes Her* and *Single White Female*, roles which she failed to land.

Mr Block said that a deal memo was generally honoured in Hollywood as someone's word. He added: "Your word is everything. And I think your word has to be good. Legally binding? I don't know."

The agent said that he recalled telling Miss Basinger that he was surprised she was interested in the surreal role. "You've got the greatest legs in the world. Why do you want to have them cut off?"

## Film-makers defend record on violence

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LEADING members of the British cinema and television industry yesterday rejected allegations that they were not properly controlling their output of violent and potentially disturbing material.

Colin Shaw, director of the Broadcasting Standards Council, said that the vast majority of complaints the government-funded watchdog handled were to do with bad language and items considered to be in bad taste, such as racist jokes.

"Nobody has discovered a direct link between television violence and violence on the streets. Most of the so-called danger lies with material imported from Hollywood, especially movies available on video and on satellite subscription services," he said.

Michael Winner, the film director and Chief Censorship Officer of the Directors' Guild of Great Britain, said it was wishful thinking for politicians to think that cutting violent shots from films and programmes would lessen the amount of violence in society.

While the actor Michael Caine has added his voice to

the growing tide of concern about the effects of television violence, programme producers have denied they are being irresponsible. Caine said that screen violence was "definitely related" to a perceived rise in violent crime and suggested that video stores should be licensed. The actor Sir Anthony Hopkins announced last weekend that he was reluctant to star in the sequel to *Silence of the Lambs* because its violent content might influence teenagers.

Bertrand Moullier, deputy

director of the Producers' Alliance for Cinema and Television, said that the assumption that British film-makers did not have sufficient integrity to ensure decent standards was absurd. "This is a sensationalist reaction stirred up by the public grief and incomprehension aroused by the murder of James Bulger in Liverpool last month," he said.

Recent suggestions from Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, that levels of television violence were partly responsible for a higher level

of violence in society were also rejected by programme makers and regulators.

Jonathan Powell, head of drama at Channel 4, said: "Hollywood has made an awful lot of very violent films along the lines of *Terminator*, but you could hardly accuse the most popular programmes on British TV, such as *The Darling Buds of May* and *Lovejoy*, of being too violent."

Melvyn Bragg, whose adaptation of his novel *A Time to Dance* is considered too close to the edge for American markets, said that the government should not seek to shift responsibility for problems which it had helped to create. "One needs to be wary of politicians who attribute social ills to television. If I had to choose between British TV and the British government as to who was most at fault, I would point at the government."

David Elstein, central director of programming at BSkyB, said: "Television reflects society, rather than forms it. The argument that it creates a more violent society is a lazy one."



Winner says critics are guilty of wishful thinking



Caine wants licensing system for video shops

## Lawyer says he found wife 'in pool of blood'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A LAWYER accused of battering his wife to death with a hammer described yesterday how he found her body in a pool of blood.

Warren Green, 27, a crown prosecution solicitor, told Liverpool Crown Court that his student nurse wife Julie, 24, was sprawled face downwards in the garage at their house.

"There was a large pool of blood around her head. I could see it trailed off the garage to the edges of the work benches," he said. "I shouted something but I don't know what. I ran into the garage and knelt at Julie's head. I touched her head with my right hand. She felt ice cold. It was only then that I realised she was dead."

Mr Green, of Wigan, Greater Manchester, denies murder in October 1991. The prosecution alleges that the solicitor killed his wife, probably while

naked to avoid getting blood on his clothes. Mrs Green is said to have been hit 16 times on the head with a hammer. The court has been told that Mrs Green was having an affair and that her husband stood to gain £120,000 through life insurance.

Mr Green said he had confronted his wife after suspecting an affair with a mutual friend. His fears were eased when she told him not to be "so daft" and they had made love shortly afterwards.

Mr Skett has told the jury he regularly had sexual intercourse with Mrs Green, sometimes in the matrimonial bed when her husband was out. Mr Green denied having an affair with Julie Warburton, 20, a university law student he met at his office in Salford. He said all he ever did was kiss her on the cheek "once or twice". The trial continues today.

## Astronauts try to save telescope's sight

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A MISSION to repair the multi-billion dollar Hubble space telescope was unveiled yesterday by British Aerospace, the European Space Agency and Nasa.

Seven astronauts on the space shuttle Endeavour will try to fit eight motorised mirrors, the size of thumb nails, to the telescope to correct its defective primary mirror. The fault, discovered after the telescope was launched in 1990, has hampered the £4 billion craft's ability to focus on distant stars and galaxies.

Derek Eaton, a project manager with ESA, said yesterday that the tiny mirrors would be like fitting spectacles to someone with failing eyesight. Doctor Roger Bonnet, director of the agency's scientific programmes, said that the correction should boost the telescope's sight

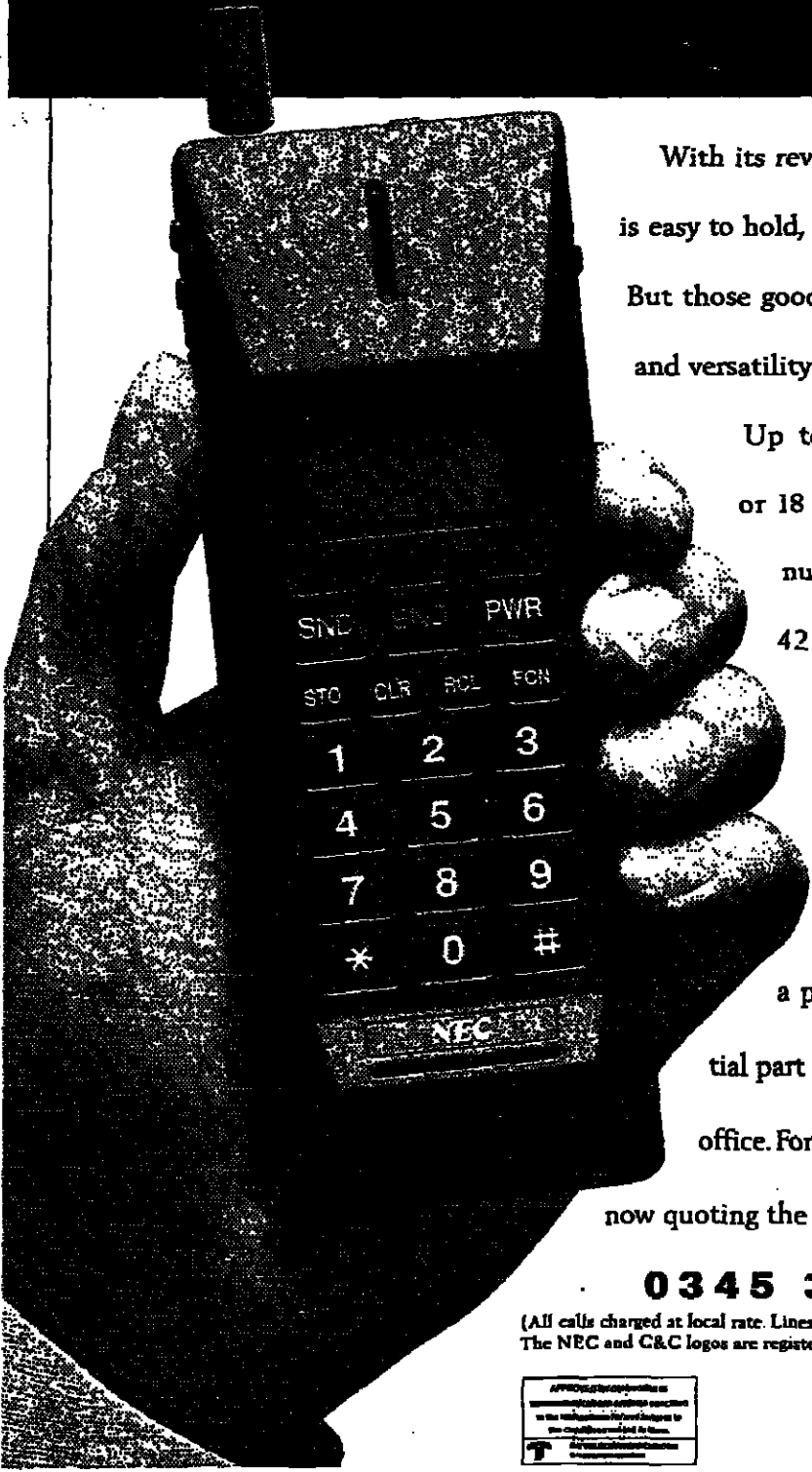
from about 20 per cent efficiency to up to 95 per cent. The mission will also involve astronauts fitting a pair of 18ft wings that power the telescope using solar cells.

Hubble is suffering jitters and shakes every 45 minutes as it orbits 370 miles above Earth. These are hampering its ability to focus and are caused by huge temperature differences across parts of the telescope.

The temperature differences, which cause parts of the metal to rapidly expand and contract, occur when the telescope plunges from hot sunlight into freezing darkness. British Aerospace space systems in Bristol has developed welded Teflon and aluminium rings which smooth out the temperature differences.

Leading article, page 21

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## JPs threaten to fine mother of truant girl £1,000

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE mother of a truant teenager has been ordered to deliver her daughter to class every day or face a £1,000 fine and a possible jail sentence. The case is thought to be the first in which a court has imposed penalties on a parent for the future school attendance of a child.

Kath Charlotte, 41, was brought before magistrates in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, after all other attempts by the local education authority had failed to make her daughter, Theresa, 14, attend school regularly. Theresa, a fourth-former at Worsborough High School near Barnsley, has missed lessons 80 times in the past year.

After Mrs Charlotte admitted failing to ensure her daughter's attendance, Roy Beaumont-Schofield, the presiding magistrate, told her: "You have produced this child and, until she is 16, she is your responsibility. We feel that this child should be escorted to school each day. It is your responsibility."

After she agreed to take Theresa into her classroom each schoolday for the next year and personally to hand

her over to a teacher, the court ordered a 12-month conditional discharge, with the threat of the fine for non-compliance and prison for failure to pay.

Yesterday, as she set out for the one-mile walk from home to school, Mrs Charlotte said: "After the education people told me Theresa was playing truant I did everything I could to make sure she went to school but she still skipped lessons."

"It is embarrassing for Theresa. All her pals were laughing at her because she had to have her mum as an escort."

Malcolm Warrington, Barnsley's acting education director, welcomed the magistrates' firm stand. He said: "The welfare of young people is of a particularly high priority at the moment and it is right that magistrates should express their concern in this way. Not only is a child losing its right to an education, but it is a waste of public money."

Last year, Barnsley's education staff dealt with 64 cases of truancy among 34,000 school children, of which 12 went to court. Parents involved were fined an average of £45.

## 'Rat Boy' faces court

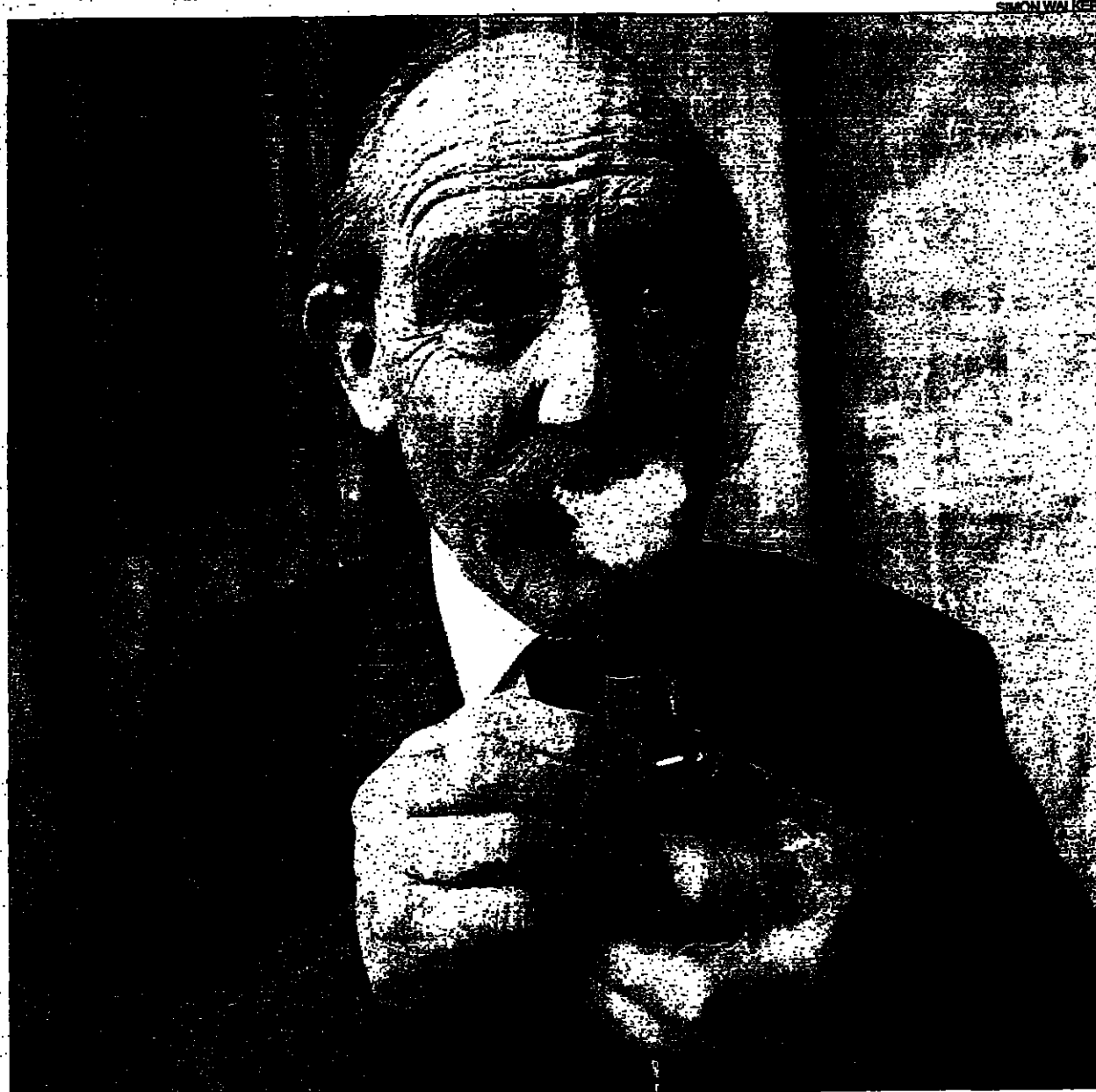
A CHILD criminal, dubbed the Rat Boy after he eluded police by living in service ducts beneath a housing estate, was only caught after a pensioner sprayed him with hair lacquer, a court was told yesterday (Paul Wilkinson writes).

Newcastle youth court was told that the 13-year-old boy, who cannot be identified, and an accomplice burgled elderly people on the Byker Hall estate, Newcastle upon Tyne, armed with a machete.

To avoid capture, he lived for several weeks in lairs made from newspapers and old

carpets inside the maze of service ducts. He was captured when he fled screaming after a 71-year-old woman found him in her flat in the early hours of the morning and sprayed him with the aerosol.

The boy denied aggravated burglary, claiming he was not carrying the weapon, but the case was found proved. He admitted three other burglary charges, taking a car and a public order offence. He was remanded in the care of a social services secure unit and will return to court for sentencing in a fortnight.



Pipe dream: Lord Belhaven and Stenton, of Parliament's pipe smokers' club, defies National No-Smoking day

## Anti-nicotine message goes up in smoke

By LOUISE HIDALGO

HUDDLED on street corners yesterday were bands of undercover smokers, hounded out of the many offices and institutions in the City of London where smoking has been banned. Few seemed concerned that it was National No-Smoking day as they snatched a quick puff before returning to their nicotine-free offices. Indeed, most seemed to have forgotten the significance of the date, despite a £500,000 publicity campaign.

Of those who had remembered, many were firmly of the "puff and be damned" philosophy. "I've smoked for almost 40 years and no one but me is going to decide when I quit," said Leonard Dexter, a 25-a-day man. Brian Binstead, a pipe-smoker for many years, defiantly

strode along Cannon Street with pipe in hand. "It wasn't like this in the past," he moaned. "Now we're forced into corridors or on to the streets."

Some smokers, however, were apologetic about their habit. "My wife keeps nagging me to stop and I have tried," said Enrique Febrer-Bowen, a bonds salesman. "I understand why people find it objectionable but you can't legislate against it."

Mobile health centres scoured the country for converts as part of the annual stop-smoking campaign. Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, called for tax increases on cigarettes in next week's Budget as a further "disincentive to people smoking".

Launching the campaign, now in its tenth year, Mrs Bottomley said: "We

have got one of the best records of reducing smoking in this country, and my job is to say to everybody, and above all to parents, 'Quit it'."

A group of Tory backbenchers, however, including Sir Teddy Taylor and Nicholas Winterton, tabled an early-day motion that deplored the "sweeping nanny state persecution of smoking minorities".

British Airways and Cathay Pacific are to introduce non-smoking flights on the 14-hour route from Heathrow to Hong Kong because of falling demand for smoking seats (Harvey Elliott writes).

Cathay Pacific will ban smoking on all flights from May 1. British Airways will start an experimental ban for three months on one of its two daily flights to the colony at the end of this month.

## Sick days outnumber strike days 400 times

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

WORKERS take 200 million days off sick each year at a cost of £9 billion, according to a survey of absenteeism. Colds and flu are the main culprits, although stress in the recession is increasingly a reason.

Absenteeism is falling, although last year it still caused the loss of 400 times more working days than did strikes. The Industrial Society study also shows for the first time that absenteeism is much lower in Japanese companies operating in the UK than in British firms.

The society says that the national UK absence rate — the annual percentage of working days lost through absence — is 3.97 per cent. That compares with 5.05 per cent when the society last studied absence rates in 1987.

Absence rates in the public sector are 4.57 per cent, compared with 3.87 per cent in the private sector. Absence in the health sector is the highest, at 5.94 per cent, with manufacturing close behind at 5.46 per cent.

Absenteeism is highest in Wales and London, and lowest in Northern Ireland and the Home Counties. It is lower in smaller companies, and highest among part-time workers.

Two thirds of companies providing healthy food in their canteens had absence rates under 3 per cent, as did half the organisations that ban smoking. Ninety-five per cent of companies operating performance pay had low absence rates. Employers believe stress and emotional or personal problems are a much higher contributor to absence than most employees are prepared to admit.

Main reasons for absence	
1	Colds and flu
2	Stomach upsets
3	Back problems
4	Emotional problems & stress
5	Non-work injuries
6	Medical appointments
7	Pregnancy problems
8	Earache

## Cook book fraudster jailed

A man who compiled a book of recipes submitted by celebrities while posing as an official for a charity ran up debts of £72,000, a court was told yesterday.

Donald Knox-Richards, 45, charged the costs of producing the book, which included recipes from John Major, Ronald Reagan and Arthur Scargill, to the North of England Cancer Research Campaign. However, the charity had said Knox-Richards could use its royalties. Tresside Crown Court was told.

Knox-Richards, of Middlesbrough, admitted obtaining the books by deception and was jailed for 3½ years. A previously suspended 18-month sentence for another fraud is to run consecutively.

## Widow's error

A widow of 81 who thought she was ambushed by three young girls was in fact robbed by a woman who found her lying injured in a subway in Chadderton, Manchester, police said. Kathleen Kershaw's pension book was stolen by the 20-year-old woman who took her to hospital, police believe. No children were involved.

## Woman bailed

A fitness teacher who turned up safe after a massive search last December appeared in court accused of wasting police time. Joanna Grenside, 25, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, was granted bail by St Albans magistrates until next month.

## Ridley buried

A private funeral for Lord Ridley of Liddesdale was held at Stanington parish church, Northumberland, near the family home, Blagdon Hall. Only close relatives and a few villagers attended.

## Sale of a legend

An album of photographs of Bevil Quiller-Couch, the boy who may have inspired Peter Pan, sold for £17,600 at Bonhams in London.

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**TRANSWEDE**



## Mad cow disease in Scotland spreads at twice the UK rate

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE number of cattle suffering from so-called mad cow disease in Scotland is increasing twice as fast as in the rest of the United Kingdom, according to government figures.

The numbers of infected cattle north of the border are relatively small, largely because there is much less intensive dairy farming in Scotland than in England.

In the six months to February 26, the number of Scottish cattle infected with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) increased by almost 40 per cent to 3,475. In Britain as a whole the increase over the same period was 23 per cent to 86,468 cases.

According to Richard Hendon, of the National Farmers' Union, Scotland is experiencing about 30 new cases of BSE every week. Dumfries has been one of the most badly affected areas with a total of 987 cases on 499 farms. In Strathclyde, there have been 904 cases on 491 farms and in

Grampian 610 cases on 313 farms. Farmers are currently receiving £938 for each diseased cow that has been destroyed.

No one is certain as to why the increase in Scottish cases is outstripping the rest of the UK although there are theories. One is that the incidence of the disease in Scotland is lagging behind the rest of the UK by 18 months.

Francis Anthony, vice-chairman of the British Veterinary Association and an expert on BSE, says that Scottish animal feed manufacturers did not adopt the practices of English companies, which is believed to have led to the disease.

"To put it crudely, new methods were introduced in England which meant the feed wasn't cooked twice," he said. "Scotland did not adopt the same techniques."

However, Scottish farmers continued to buy some feed from England and the contaminated feed was diluted

with Scottish feed which meant it took longer for the symptoms of BSE to manifest themselves.

Mr Hendon said that there was some evidence to suggest that Scotland is mirroring England but with an 18-month delay. He added, however: "No one can say that for certain. No one is 100 per cent sure of the progress of this disease. It is all a matter of conjecture. It is certainly taking longer to clear than everyone anticipated. It will be some time before the country is completely clear. We are not expecting numbers to fall away before the end of this year. Farmers are concerned."

"No one likes it and it is terrible to see cattle in that state. It has stopped all our pedigree breeding exports."

A spokesman for the Scottish Office, confirming the figures, said the numbers should start to fall at the end of the year.

Rising toll, page 1



Tight security: a guard watches BSE infected cows being destroyed at an airfield near Taunton, Somerset

## Link with farmer unlikely

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY

THE death of a 61-year-old dairy farmer from Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), reported in the latest issue of *The Lancet*, has raised fears of a possible link with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). One of the farmer's cows had died from BSE in 1989.

In fact, the deaths are likely to be pure coincidence; the incubation period for spongiform encephalopathy in humans is usually 10 to 15 years, so even if cross-infection occurred, the farmer would not have had time to develop the disease.

However, scientists admit that there would be cause for serious concern if CJD, which kills about one in two million people worldwide, were to start occurring with above-normal frequency in people exposed to BSE through their jobs, such as farmers or vets.

There is no evidence at all of that as yet, but it is too soon to feel wholly reassured because the monitoring programme being conducted by a team of neuropathologists, led by Robert Will at Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, is only 2½ years old.

## NatWest blunder may distort 30,000 accounts

BY IAN MURRAY

THE National Westminster Bank said yesterday that up to 30,000 Visa card holders may have been affected by mistakes in crediting payments in the past two months.

The mistake, identified at the end of January, comes less than six months after the bank's Gold Card holders were the principal victims of another computer mix-up, caused by a fault in software that made wrong debits.

The bank, which blames the latest mistake on staff feeding wrong information into a computer, claims the fault has been eliminated and has set up a team to examine all Visa accounts.

The faulty programming meant that January payments made against many accounts held by 15,000 special card holders were not credited but paid instead into an equal number of ordinary Visa accounts.

The fault originated among cards linked to the World Wide Fund for Nature under a scheme whereby the charity received a donation each month related to the amount in each account. The bank decided to end this system in December and the error occurred when details of the 15,000 cards were fed into the computer so that they could be replaced by ordinary Visa cards. In many cases, the wrong information was immediately rejected by the computer and the fault remedied before those accounts were sent out.

The bank started an enquiry

in late January as queries began to come in both from people who had not been credited with sums paid in and from account holders wondering why they had received mystery payments. The bank decided, however, that there was no need to start a scare among its four million card holders by warning all customers to scrutinise their accounts. The mistake only became public this week, by which time, according to the bank, most of the accounts involved had been traced.

The bank said: "The priority was to find out what was wrong and to try to identify which cards were affected. The exact reason is still being investigated but we have a very good idea now of what happened. Anyone who has been charged interest or incurred other costs as a result of our mistake will be reimbursed. We guarantee no one will be disadvantaged."

Graham Jacobs, senior researcher on banking at the Consumers' Association, said it was very worrying that NatWest had failed to send out a letter to all card holders. "You are left with the impression that they were trying to cover the whole thing up. They have chosen to leave people in the dark and left it to them to find out the problems themselves. This runs counter to the whole spirit of the voluntary code on banking which was issued a year ago with the idea of increasing communication between banks and their customers."

## Teenage couple found dead

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE families of a teenage schoolgirl and her boy friend were in mourning yesterday after the couple were found dead, apparently having made a suicide pact.

The bodies of Victoria Brown, 17, and Kevin Forrest, 19, were discovered on Tuesday night in a car at a secluded spot near Dalry, Strathclyde. A length of hose was attached to the exhaust pipe.

Police say there are no suspicious circumstances and they are treating the case as suicide. A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal, who is expected to order post mortem examinations.

The couple were from Whitburn, West Lothian, and until recently lived in the same street. They had known each other for about four years and had become engaged on Valentine's day last year. Both sets of parents are said to have approved of the relationship.

Kevin is believed to have been stationed with the Scots Dragoon Guards at Catterick, North Yorkshire. Victoria was a sixth-form pupil at St Kentigern's Academy, Blackburn. One of her school friends said: "They were very close to each other and were childhood sweethearts. We cannot believe they have both died when they had so much going for them."

## Odd life of twins ends with death

THE bizarre lives of inseparable twin sisters have finally been parted by the death of one of them on their first step away from Broadmoor top-security hospital.

Jenny and June Gibbons, 29, refused to speak to adults and even communicated with their parents by letter. In May 1982 they were ordered to be detained at Broadmoor indefinitely after a five-week series of arson and vandalism attacks in their home town of Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

On Tuesday they were transferred on trial leave from Broadmoor to an interim secure unit at Glamryd hospital. When they arrived staff noticed that Jenny was unwell and she was taken to the Princess of Wales hospital, where she died later that day. The cause of death is not yet known and an inquest will be held.

In 1986 the sisters were the subject of a television documentary, "The Silent Twins", which disclosed their literary talents. Alan Francis, general manager of Broadmoor, said yesterday: "Jennifer Gibbons had made good progress on our rehabilitation programme. We are very sad indeed that she has died."

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TTI



## Breakaway by chess champions divides British federation

By Ray Clancy

CHESS in Britain is likely to split into two warring camps, mirroring the chaos that opened up on the world stage last month when Gary Kasparov, the world champion, and Nigel Short of Britain broke away from the governing body, Fide.

An acrimonious meeting of the British Chess Federation is expected this weekend after John Poole, federation president, wrote to one of the directors inviting him to resign because he had sided with the Kasparov/Short camp against Fide. The matter is likely to be put to the vote on Sunday as Adam Black, the publicity director, said he had no intention of offering his resignation.

Privately, many players and organisers of the game in Britain welcome a split. They believe that the sport should be opened up so that players can earn more money. The root of the problem lies with the decision by Kasparov and Short to break away from

Fide. They were angry at the way the world governing body announced that their championship match would be played in Manchester without consulting them. They have formed the Professional Chess Association to oversee the world match and have called for fresh bids.

Mr Black, a close colleague of Short and other top players, who is known for working behind the scenes in their interests, was asked to become involved with the new association on a temporary basis to co-ordinate its formation while Kasparov and Short are out of the country.

Mr Poole said that Mr Black had compromised the federation policy of not taking sides. He admitted there were internal problems but hoped they would not result in a split. "The BCF has a duty to Fide as an affiliated member and a responsibility to our player, Nigel Short. We realise that there are two sides here. The difficulty is that if you are

piggy in the middle you cannot ascertain all the facts."

He confirmed that he had invited Mr Black to resign but said that did not necessarily mean he would accept his resignation. "It depends on what excuse he comes up with. I was informed that he had been asked to act as an official for the newly formed body. I feel that is not in keeping with the attitude that BCF officials should adopt and is contrary to our policy of maintaining an equal position."

Mr Poole said that Mr Black was asked to "actively promote the rival party" and was set to become secretary of the new association. "One of our officials, in my personal opinion, had taken a strong line in favour of one party and had thus compromised his position."

Mr Black said he did not intend to resign his directorship of the federation. "My position has been quite consistent with the constitutional aims of the federation."

## Kasparov crushes challengers

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

THE international chess tournament at Linares, Spain, has been notable for Gary Kasparov's determination to crush any possible rivals who might lay claim to contesting a reserve match for the world title after he and his challenger, Nigel Short, broke away from Fide.

The world champion inflicted a crushing defeat on the Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman, who would be the official "reserve champion" if Fide was to stage the reserve match. Kasparov also defeated Viswanathan Anand, the brilliant young Indian.

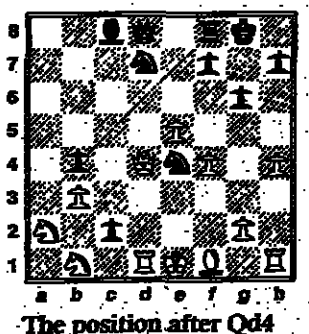
In round 10, Kasparov trounced his arch-rival Anatoly Karpov in a game notable for the violence of Kasparov's attack, which would have led to a forced

checkmate had his opponent not lost on time.

In the diagram position Kasparov, black to move, took white's rook with his pawn and said that he was promoting to a queen. This would have put the white king in check. Karpov made his next move as if Kasparov had

promoted to a knight and, when questioned by the umpire, Karpov said: "Kasparov said Kon (Russian for knight) not queen."

The arbiter brushed aside this feeble explanation and Karpov was ordered to play on with the fresh black queen in place. Karpov was awarded an extra two minutes' thinking time, but lost by clock forfeit three moves later.



White	Black	White	Black
1 Qd4	Nb6	16 Bxb4	Bxb4
2 Qd4	Qd7	17 Qxb4	Bxb4
3 Nc3	Qd7	18 Nc	Qd7
4 Qd4	Qd7	19 Qd1	Nb6
5 Qd4	Qd7	20 Qd1	Nb6
6 Bc3	Qd7	21 Nc	Qd7
7 Nc3	Qd7	22 Nc	Qd7
8 Qd4	Qd7	23 Qd1	Qd7
9 Qd4	Qd7	24 Qd1	Qd7
10 Qd4	Qd7	25 Qd1	Qd7
11 Qd4	Qd7	26 Qd1	Qd7
12 Qd4	Qd7	27 Qd1	Qd7
13 Qd4	Qd7	28 Qd1	Qd7
14 Qd4	Qd7	29 Qd1	Qd7
15 Qd4	Qd7	30 Qd1	Qd7

## Everest expedition sets out to top £1m

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A BRITISH expedition leaves for Nepal today hoping to put the first British woman on the summit of Everest and raise £1 million for Sir Edmund Hillary's Himalayan Trust.

The DHL Everest 40 expedition aims to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of Sir Edmund's conquest of the mountain by following the same route to the top. Four of the nine-strong mountaineering team will make the ascent without oxygen. They are led by John Barry, 46, a professional mountaineer, who said yesterday that he hoped to see all nine on the summit — "a not entirely unrealistic ambition".

Among them is Rebecca Stephens, a 31-year-old journalist who had her first taste of mountaineering when she reported the 1989 Anglo-American expedition on the northeast ridge of Everest for the *Financial Times*. She went over 23,000ft and has since climbed Mont Blanc, France, and Mount McKinley, Alaska.



Tipped for the top: Rebecca Stephens and the mountain she aims to conquer

Yesterday, on the telephone from New Zealand, Sir Edmund wished the expedition good luck and said that the money it raised would be used to support the trust he founded in 1961. It has provided 25 schools, two hospitals, medical clinics, water pipelines and support for conservation in Nepal, one of the world's poorest countries.

The organiser of the expedition is Peter Earl, a financier, who said that this was the first time Everest would be climbed for charity. Since the first ascent in 1953, he said, the Himalayas had suffered a lot of damage. The team would take care to leave no rubbish on the mountain. But the real damage, he said, was caused by deforestation, which allowed soil to be washed from the slopes.

Dr Andrew Peacock, of Western Infirmary in Glasgow, will use the expedition as an opportunity to study high-

altitude pulmonary oedema, a condition in which fluid leaks from the blood vessels into the lungs and which can be fatal.

Climbing Everest, Dr Peacock said yesterday, is "an extreme physiological insult". But nobody understands why

some people suffer the condition and others do not; it appears to be unrelated to physical fitness. He believes that in susceptible people the blood vessels in the lung contract more at low atmospheric pressures.

He has already carried out tests on the responses of members of the team at Western Infirmary and will watch to see whether these provide good predictions of their performance on the mountain.

## The way it isn't

By Adrian Brooks

IT WAS the early studies, and things would never be the same again. In Liverpool, there was the Cavern; in London, the Establishment Club. In New York, smoky bars filled with the sounds of modern jazz, and on the Left Bank, young French intellectuals engaged in impassioned debate.

Meanwhile, in Cambridge, England, an aspirant politician who went by the name of John Selwyn Gummer invited his fellow students Norman Lamont, Kenneth Clarke and Norman Fowler into his upstairs room for a banana milkshake and a rich tea biscuit. This was the start of a friendship that was to change the British political scene for ever. In that small room, a legendary circle was born.

The nominal leader of this revolutionary group was clamouring for change at all costs. "If I could collect your change at the beginning of our meetings," announced Gummer, "then there'll be no quibbling over who may or may not have had a second biscuit — infinitely more civilised!"

It was a good ten years before the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber, but Gummer was prepared to sit it out, refusing to play anything else on his gramophone.

Thus the room was silent but for the sound of political cut-and-thrust. "Let's try to see this in the context of the broader issues involved," the young Michael Howard would argue, to which Norman Lamont retorted: "And it's wise at this stage to be fully cognisant of the strategic implications of any policy readjustment."

Never before had Cambridge seen their like: a new force was lightly dusting the country, for slight change at minimum cost.

(Continued tomorrow)

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**TRANSWEDE**



# Danes threaten new blow to Maastricht

FROM SHEILA GUNN IN COPENHAGEN

DENMARK'S latest opinion poll yesterday on the outcome of the second Maastricht referendum on May 18, showed a further shift away from a "yes" vote. Headlines in the main newspapers here talk of "more uncertainties for John Major", with one setting out the long series of parliamentary hurdles facing the bill.

Leading Euro-sceptics Labour's Dennis Skinner and Conservative MP Bill Cash, appeared on Danish television this week exhorting their Community cousins to finish off the treaty once and for all by voting "no" again.

Slowly but surely Danish commentators are recognising that the run-up to the second referendum could mirror last year's shift in support which resulted in 48,000 Danes swinging the vote against Maastricht. Helped by British sympathisers, Danish Euro-sceptics have been much quicker off the mark than the pro-Maastricht camp this spring. But there is still two months to go and everything to play for. Yesterday's poll in

the national daily *Jyllands-Posten* puts the "yes" vote at 54 per cent, the "noes" at 25 per cent and don't-knows at 21 per cent. In February a similar poll recorded 57 per cent in favour of ratification after the rescue package of opt-outs for the Danes agreed at Edinburgh's EC summit.

There are other nagging signs of an underlying unease about the agreement. Baroness Thatcher made a private visit to Copenhagen stock exchange last month to address Danish businessmen and financiers, usually the most fervent Euro-enthusiasts. Although reporters were barred, it was later confirmed that she received a standing ovation after her detailed denunciation of the treaty.

The four parties in Denmark's centre-left coalition government have fallen over whose fault it is that the case for the deal is not getting across to the voters. While the prime minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, promises a positive campaign, his colleagues focus on warning the waverers of a sharp rise in Denmark's

11 per cent jobless rate unless they vote "yes".

Even the Socialist People's party, which switched from a "no" to a "yes" policy after Edinburgh, has been forced to convene an emergency summit this weekend to placate rebellious supporters who still object to the treaty.

Bent Brier a leading anti-Maastricht campaigner who keeps in close touch with British sceptics, said that one factor influencing his countrymen was the statement by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that if Denmark votes "no" Britain will not press ahead with ratification. Danish sceptics see that as confounding the claim that their country would be isolated.

An anti-Maastricht poster here proclaims: "No to any European union compromise: the fox plays tricks." One observer said: "May's referendum may end up to say more about what people think of politicians than it does about the future of Denmark."

Defeat threat, page 2



Run for your rights: Labour MPs Dennis Canavan, left, Tony Banks, Kate Hoey and Alan Michael go out jogging as part of a campaign to against the decision to charge the London Marathon £15,000 for using the royal parks.

The MPs are supporting Chris Brasher, the chairman of the race's board of directors, in his fight to keep the traditional route of the marathon on April 18 (John Goodbody writes). Mr Banks, MP for Newham North West,

says the action of the Department of National Heritage is "penny-pinching of the worst sort". Mr Brasher has said that the money would have to come from the event's surplus, which is given to sport and recreation in London.

## Private sector pushed to take up projects

By John Lewis

BANKERS and developers were given a shopping list of 21 major infrastructure schemes which John Redwood, the inner city and local government minister, believes they should now rush to build as a result of relaxation of the Treasury rules.

Mr Redwood has drawn up the 21 schemes in response to a challenge from financial institutions to say precisely how the changes in the Treasury rules on private and joint private-public projects will work in practice.

The 21 include multi-million pound ventures to build and operate Sheffield Airport, erect a new Tyne crossing, extend the Manchester Metro-Link, add to the Black Country spine road, continue the Docklands Light Railway to Lewisham and provide an energy supply for the Royal Docks in London Docklands.

There were probably another 300 or 400 schemes which could go ahead in the new climate, Mr Redwood said. He also wanted private backing for City Challenge and other established schemes which had difficulty in attracting private capital.

The recession in the past two years has discouraged people from thinking of new risk-bearing projects, but there is now a happy conjunction of events, Mr Redwood said. "The economic climate is beginning to lift... We have also changed the Treasury rules in a very positive way."

He was to follow meetings with financial institutions by inviting in the country's ten leading construction firms at the end of this month, though others would also be welcome. Another new factor was the willingness of Labour local authorities to support any scheme. He was ready to accept money from foreign backers if they came forward.

Mr Redwood said the breakthrough in the Autumn Statement was the topping of the requirement that privately financed infrastructure projects should be cheaper than the equivalent built in the public sector. Given that the private scheme was risk-bearing, the cost of private financing would always be higher, he said.

The government would be very open-minded and flexible as long as projects included a defensible transfer of risk. "We shall be very happy to let people go ahead. Nor should companies wait for more detailed guidelines on private and joint schemes, which would come at the end of March."

## Sea trials setback for submarine

By Michael Evans  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Navy's first Trident ballistic missile submarine, HMS *Vanguard*, lost its £250,000 towed array sonar during sea trials, naval officials told MPs yesterday.

Part of the long sonar line, which is pulled behind the submarine to help to detect other vessels, broke off and could not be retrieved. The sea trials of the Trident boat, launched in March last year, were completed about two weeks ago. Rear Admiral Richard Irwin, chief of the strategic systems executive, said it was "particularly disappointing" that the towed array had been lost.

He told MPs on the Commons defence committee that the four Trident submarines would cost about £5.5 billion to run during their 30 years in naval service. This would consist of £1 billion for manning and pay, £1.3 billion for refits, £1 billion for stores, £1.2 billion for operating the Clyde submarine base, £150 million for decommissioning the boats at the end of their life, and £1 billion for running costs at the atomic weapons establishment at Aldermaston in Berkshire. Greenpeace claims that the running costs will be significantly higher.

## Lamont backed over economy

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

CONSERVATIVE tensions over Norman Lamont's Budget next Tuesday surfaced yesterday when a prominent backbencher rejected calls for tax increases to reduce the spiralling public sector deficit.

John Watts, chairman of the all-party Commons Treasury committee, said the recovery was too "patchy and fragile" to push through big tax increases at this stage in the economic cycle. Rather than cutting the deficit, premature tax increases could magnify it by further depressing demand and Exchequer revenues.

Mr Watts's call for a "rainy day" Budget was directly at odds with pressure from Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former Chancellor, for an immediate tough package. It came amid signs that Tory MPs are beginning to rally around Mr Lamont after the battering he has taken in recent months.

In a letter to *The Times* today, Sir Michael Gyles, chairman of the backbench Tory trade and industry committee, praises the Chancellor as a "tax reformer" and for his handling of September's sterling crisis. Mr Lamont did the "right thing for the country" by pulling the pound out of the exchange-rate mechanism rather than devaluing within the currency grid.

While acknowledging that Mr Lamont's credibility had been damaged, most of the criticism had been "ill-founded". Mr Watts said. He would be "quite happy" if Mr

Lamont stayed in his post to deliver the second Budget in November. Most Tory backbenchers, however, still believe that Mr Lamont's next Budget will be his last.

Without greatly adding to the tax burden, the Chancellor could make some significant changes. He should announce that from, say, next April interest tax relief would not apply to new mortgages. "That could give a short-term boost to the housing market rather in the way that the announcement of the withdrawal of double relief did... That would raise a lot of revenue in the longer term."

Mr Watts predicted big increases in petrol and diesel duty and, possibly, the road fund licence as the Chancellor clawed back the £750 million given away last year by scrapping car tax. An "energy tax" on domestic fuel and power would "lock in" imaginative and raise a lot of money. However, smokers and drinkers might be treated more leniently because they had the escape route of stocking up on cheap tobacco and alcohol on cross-Channel trips.

To reassure the markets, the Chancellor should set out a "medium-term fiscal strategy" showing how he intended to bring the public finances closer to balance over the next three years. Mr Watts opposed interest rate cuts next week because of the dangers of stoking up inflation and undermining the pound.

Letters, page 21

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# Labour's voice of the people seeks to outflank Tories

MARJORIE Mowlam bubbles with ideas. She is no conventional sound-bite politician, carefully guarding her comments. Instead, she uses colourful language and talks expansively. In place of gravitas, there is an occasionally disorganised enthusiasm.

Before the election, she charmed many in the City as Labour spokesman on financial matters. Now, as a member of the shadow cabinet since last July, she has the equally difficult task of trying to stir a political debate about the work of William Waldegrave's office of public service.

The revolution under way in Whitehall, of which the citizen's charter is merely the public face, has been virtually ignored at Westminster. Yet its ramifications are as far-reaching as anything in the government's programme.

The revolution involves much more than limiting motorway cones. It challenges the traditional structure of central government. Many functions have been devolved into semi-independent executive agencies under the Next Steps programme and more operations may be contracted-out under market testing.

For a long time Labour leaders muttered disapproving comments about a threat to public services and did not offer an alternative. Ms Mowlam is now trying to



establish Labour's credentials in this area. She draws a distinction between the use of market mechanisms by consumers buying goods and the rationing involved in allocating monopoly public services. The market cannot provide the consumer with a choice of competing passport offices.

The rationing decision, of course, is a political decision, given to politicians to decide who are accountable to the electorate through the ballot box. Priority services are decided by politicians within the constraints of limited resources and conflicting demands. Once politicians have made those decisions, then it is crucial for the public to have a say in how the resulting services are delivered.

William Waldegrave "wants to refer to consumers but surely the business of govern-

ment is for citizens. Pensioners are concerned about the level of education for their grandchildren."

The government talks about "citizen's charters, whether it be for government departments or for local authorities. It is not individuals choosing, it is Willie (Waldegrave) deciding what should be in the charters. There is no individual choice and no accountability."

Ms Mowlam has aligned herself with Labour's modernisers against its traditionalists. This includes some public sector unions (with whom she is careful to keep in touch) who may feel threatened by these reforms. She accepts the thrust of many current changes — an increased emphasis on managerial efficiency, the purchaser/provider split in allocating resources and the publication of league tables.

Her quarrel is with setting targets which do not improve performance or accountability and do not involve consumers. "Let's publish and show that they've only met 80 per cent of their target this year — that does not help you as a consumer have any input. It does not help your accountability when British Rail sets the target for the northeast lines very high because they know they can meet them, and the southeast lines very low because they cannot." As MP for Redcar, she feels strongly on that

At present, money is increasingly related to the ability to meet targets. So "we will get into silly target-meeting, whether it is hospitals, or whether it is local authorities. Hospitals with no money, it's daft. It'll just be like the Soviet Union. It is Stalinist central planning. We'll get five thousand left shoe equivalents for a department wanting to meet their targets because they are head of the table."

Charters should, in her view, become an agreement between the people running them and the consumers. "If as a result you get driving tests on a Sunday morning or in early evening that's fine. But don't ask people that it's written in gold, and if you don't get it, it's compensation time — that's the mistake. It should be part of a managerial process. My concept of the charters would look much more at the basic rights citizens have, access to legal aid, access to information, that's the way you empower people."

Ms Mowlam wants to outflank the government. "We have to be realistic. If this government stays in power for three years, we will be left with a large number of activities in Next Steps agencies and many operations outside Whitehall



Spreading her wings: Marjorie Mowlam tries to stir political debate about William Waldegrave's office of public service

as a result of market testing. We have to start from the point we are at. What I want to do is to be more radical than the government, to step over them on Next Steps, and say if we are being serious. Let's give an agency manager the power to make decisions within his budget. The government is dictating to them compulsorily and listing who should do it." She wants to see the agencies decide if they want to contract out part of their operations, as local authorities have always

done without central government dictating.

"I would leave it up to the person running that agency to decide — performance-related pay within that institution." She concedes that that is putting a lot on that person. "But then they are employed as a manager compared to the private sector. They are supposed to be good."

Such extensive decentralisation has implications for accountability. That means looking at how agencies report

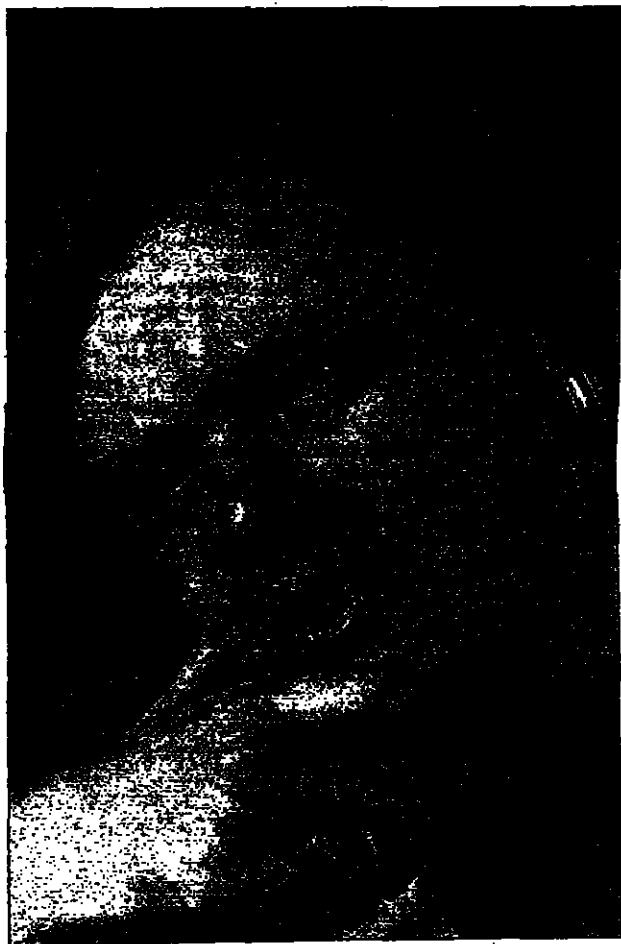
up to ministers and at the working of select committees. "It is a crucial constitutional question in three or four years' time. Assuming we have school and health boards, possibly also police boards, accountability as we used to know it isn't there. I don't believe we can go back to local democracy because a lot will be in the private sector."

Although it is not yet a Labour party commitment, Ms Mowlam would like to look at the private sector. "I

can complain if the train does not come in on time, but I can't complain if my plumber does not turn up. If it is good enough for the public sector, it is good enough for the private sector." Individuals should have "a right against the big bureaucracies". She would strengthen citizens' rights to complain. "I would look at citizens advice bureaux."

Ms Mowlam talks in a language wholly different from the Labour leaders of the 1940s, or even the 1960s,

with their belief in central planning and monolithic nationalised industries. While the man in Whitehall no longer knows best, she still leaves open many questions about how the man, and now the woman, in charge of the many new agencies and boards will be both efficient and accountable. How will ministers and Parliament be involved? How can consumers/citizens really have an influence? The Labour rethink has much further to go.



Page 1 of 2

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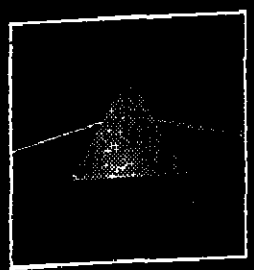
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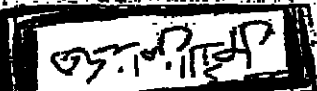
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After all the shouting, Italian prime minister wins agreement to carry on

## Screaming Amato takes on hecklers

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

FIGHTING broke out in the Italian Senate yesterday as Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, defending his policy on the corruption scandal involving the country, indulged in an undignified screaming match with opposition hecklers.

Senators subsequently voted by 143 to 99 to ask the battered government coalition to continue its policies. Giovanni Spadolini, the Senate Speaker, said the image of parliament had been damaged by the uproar. "The spectacle we are giving is shameful," he said.

The trouble began in the normally sleepy upper house as Signor Amato began his address, and opposition neo-Fascists and senators from the hardline Marxist Communist Refoundation party chanted "resign, resign" repeatedly.

Devolutionist Lombardy League members then showed government benches with bunches of fake banknotes printed with pictures of the former Socialist leader Bettino Craxi and other leading figures in Tangentopoli, or Bribe City, as the graft scandal is known. Gold-

braided ushers intervened as an outraged Socialist senator, Maurizio Calvi, stormed the Lombardy League benches and scuffled with a devolutionist heckler, Francesco Tabladini, grabbing him by the lapels.

Order was restored with difficulty and at one point Signor Amato lost his temper with the constant harangue of a Communist Refoundation senator, Lucio Libertini. "Basta, Libertini, enough — shut up," the prime minister screamed. "If nobody else will tell you, I will."

Signor Amato, in another outburst, accused the opposition of creating a "lynching" atmosphere against the corrupt. "This is the reflection of the climate of intolerable intolerance you have created in the country." Several MPs from the anti-Mafia Rete (Network) group wore placards round their necks saying: "Amato go home."

Senators greeted Giovanni Conso, the justice minister, who has said he is considering resigning by the end of the week, with cheers and applause when he took his seat for the speech. Signor Amato



Taking off the gloves: ushers intervene to stop a fight between senators on the floor of the Italian senate. The scuffles broke out as Giuliano Amato, the embattled prime minister, addressed the upper house

admitted he had been wrong to overrule advice from Signor Conso against trying to issue a decree ending prison sentences for politicians who break the law on party financing.

The government dropped the decree on Monday after it was rejected by President Scalfaro. In his defence the prime minister read extracts from numerous pundits and experts, including leaders of

the opposition Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) who had proposed similar measures to contain the scandal. Nearly one-fifth of the Chamber of Deputies is under investigation.

Signor Amato called for solidarity from the coalition parties, but also appealed for a sense of responsibility from the opposition parties, the PDS and Republicans, who do not want an early general

election before a popular referendum on April 18, that is expected to mandate an end to the proportional representation system.

The 54-year-old Socialist said he intended to leave politics once his mandate is over. "Change is essential. I am the first to admit it and will give an example. The end of my experience as prime minister, be that in one day, one month or one year, will be the

end of my political experience. I do not pretend to be a man for all seasons."

Seventy per cent of a sample of 63 parliamentarians polled by *La Stampa* yesterday said they expected the government to last until the referendum. In another setback Signor Amato appointed Valdo Spini as environment minister. Signor Amato last month called him a "cretin" during the battle for party leadership.

## Tapie chats up the butcher to save Socialists' bacon

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN MARSEILLES

THE morning sun sparkles on the red-tiled roofs and a funeral is under way in the parish church when the Bernard Tapie machine charges up the tiny high street of St Saviour, a postcard of a Provençal village in the hills near Marseilles.

Bounding along from baker to butcher to hairdresser, pumping hands, slapping backs and signing autographs, France's star millionaire-politician exudes enough dynamism to dazzle a Texan.

The language is earthy and the gestures are pure Mediterranean as M Tapie, minister and left-wing parliamentary candidate, listens to complaints over pensions and parking, flirts with *la patronne* at the café and exchanges jocular insults with aficionados of Olympique de Marseille (OM), the local football club which he owns.

"Merde! Whaddaya mean Durand's no good?" the minister for urban affairs retorts to one villager's jibe about a player. "Say that again and I'll kick you in the arse! We've only lost one game this year."

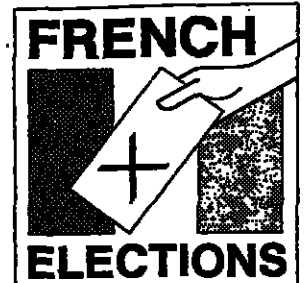
"You're crazy," the young supporter snaps back, using the intimate *tu*. When he discovers that the only non-villager is from *The Times*, M Tapie asks: "Are you here to see if we are just as much *dans la merde* as Britain is? Ha ha." Such banter would be as likely as Swahili from the mouth of a typical French minister, a breed that gets its laughs from such things as misplaced subterfuges. But M Tapie is a double exception: a popular and ostentatiously vulgar member of the Mitterrand administration.

He carries with him President Mitterrand's hopes for helping to prevent a Socialist collapse in the general elections. His brash charm makes him a powerful magnet for the southern Socialists. As one academic study put it, M Tapie embodies the "three Rs" that make Marseilles tick: *rêve*, *rire*, *risque* (dreams, laughter and risk). M Tapie's presence may help stave off a Socialist rout in the area.

For M Tapie the stakes in this semi-rural constituency go far beyond the fate of the Mitterrand administration. They will make or break his drive to step into the shoes of Gaston Deleure, the legendary mayor and godfather of Marseilles who died in 1986.

From there, he clearly hopes to take the presidency of France.

Previously independent but aligned to the left, M Tapie decided he needed a party. He decided not so much to join one as take one over. He signed up with the Mouvement des Radicaux de Gauche (MRG), a venerable but ailing centre-left group and announced that he was renouncing it *Energie Radicale*. He then abandoned his old Marseilles constituency, which he won in 1988 and was now expected to lose to the conservative landslide, and took over the safe Socialist seat based on Gardanne, north of the city.



His bitterest foe is Robert Vigouroux, Deleure's successor as mayor and boss of a Socialist machine that owes little allegiance to Paris. M Vigouroux, an elderly professor of medicine, has delivered two blows lately. One of his deputies is standing against M Tapie and he has released a lawyers' report alleging bankruptcy in the OM finances. M Tapie laughs off the report as a political concoction and gives equally short shrift to the other heavyweight, Jean-Claude Gaudin, the centrist president of the regional council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

M Vigouroux has failed to fill "Uncle Gaston's" shoes, letting Marseilles succumb to 20 per cent unemployment.

M Tapie, or Zorro as his opponents call him, is convinced that two years in Provence — the time until the next municipal and presidential elections — will be enough to prove himself a national political heavyweight.

"I've done more here in ten days than the previous lot did in five years," he said over a pizza. "People are not idiots. They know who works hard for them and who doesn't, and once you get out of the big cities that counts for more than political labels."



Feminist triumph: Ruth Dreifuss, the Swiss Social Democrat, who was elected yesterday to the federal cabinet by the parliament in Bern. Her election, by 144 votes out of 228, makes her only the second

woman to join the cabinet in Swiss history and ends a dispute over male chauvinism that threatened to split the coalition government. The distribution of portfolios will be decided this afternoon. (Reuters)

## Mercedes diverted from road to success

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BONN

THE recession is taking a growing toll on German industry. Following the announcement of steel closures in the Ruhr, Mercedes, the symbol of postwar prosperity, is bracing itself for record losses.

Confidential figures

DM3 billion. The prediction is likely to send a shudder through Germany's struggling car industry. It will also heighten the sense of urgency in talks that Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, will begin today with the leaders of the 16 states to consider austerity measures aimed at warding off economic disaster.

Mercedes has refused to comment on the report and will present its figures on April 22. The company has announced that about 27,000 jobs will have to be cut over the next few years, but the predicted losses may mean more lay-offs. Car production in Germany is expected to slump by up to 20 per cent this year.

More than 1,000 workers from the threatened steel plant in Rheinhausen yesterday demonstrated in Düsseldorf, capital of North Rhine-Westphalia. Johannes Rau, the state prime minister, faced scuffles and boos.

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**FIAT TIPO FIAT**



## Trade minister held on corruption charge as economy unravels

# Collapse of Belgrade bank exposes high interest savings racket

FROM TIM JUDAH  
IN BELGRADE

■ Social unrest as sanctions strangled the economy was kept in check by the banks' policy. Now the lid has been taken off

THOUSANDS of Serbs clamoured for their money yesterday as one of the country's biggest private banks looked set for ruin.

Jezdimir Vasiljevic, the bank's proprietor and known universally as "the boss" fled the country on Monday saying that he was the target of government sponsored racketeering and that he was prepared to help "physically liquidate them".

There were conflicting reports as to whether Mr Vasiljevic had gone into permanent exile. "I have millions of dollars personally invested in Serbia, and since I cannot take real estate on my back I am bloody well coming back," he said in one interview.

The Vasiljevic scandal highlighted the fact that hundreds of thousands of families have been living off the interest paid out by private banks, a factor that is widely believed to have staved off social unrest as sanctions have slowly strangled the economy.

While Mr Vasiljevic charged senior officials, especially in Montenegro, with attempting to extort money

from him, Velimir Mihajlovic, Serbia's minister of trade, was arrested on corruption charges. Two weeks ago Sava Vujakovic the former trade minister was also arrested.

Montenegrin officials said that Mr Vasiljevic had not paid the lease for a luxury holiday complex and so they had seized 7,000 tonnes of petrol owned by his bank, Jugoskandic.

Jugoskandic was reported to be involved in all sorts of shady deals including arms and the import of embargoed petrol. However, hundreds of thousands of ordinary people queued up to deposit their savings in his bank because of the extraordinary amounts of interest it was paying out.

With rates as high as 15 per cent a month on hard currency savings, Mr Vasiljevic told *The Times* in an interview last November that he believed that, along with the rival Dufament Bank, as many as two million people were living off the interest.

Yesterday crowds jostled to grab forms to pull their money out of Jugoskandic but a surprising number said they had only come to collect their interest and still had faith in "the boss". One man said: "He may have run away, but he hasn't taken the bank."

Stevan Protic, acting head of Jugoskandic, gave a gloomier assessment. He said that unless Mr Vasiljevic returned by Monday there would be no more money to pay out to depositors. He added that he did not know whether there was gold bullion in the vaults because bank officials could not find the key.

Mr Vasiljevic is now in Israel where he says he is consulting with business partners. The flamboyant banker who speaks English with a slight Australian twang picked up earlier in his career is not a Serb but a Viach, a minority speaking a Latin-based language related to Romanian. Interest rates in the private banks have been so high that



Bank charge: investors grapple with employees in an effort to withdraw savings after the collapse yesterday of Belgrade's Jugoskandic bank

most people deposit small amounts of capital and live off the monthly interest. For pensioners and the unemployed £50 a month interest paid out in hard currency is the difference between abject poverty and survival. Last November

Mr Vasiljevic dismissed tales of drugs and gun running saying that the true secret behind high interest rates was that, even under sanctions, business was booming. "Don't you ever wonder why Western bankers have the best build-

ings and drive the best cars?" he asked. "It's because they are robbing depositors money. They could easily afford to pay out much larger rates."

Everyone is now waiting to see whether the collapse of Jugoskandic and the arrest of the trade minister will be the strings that begin to unravel the tatty remains of the Serbian economy.

■ New York: The West is preparing tougher sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia if the Bosnian Serbs fail to sign the Vance-Owen peace plan. The new sanctions would tighten the UN trade embargo by banning the transshipment of goods across Yugoslav territory, freezing assets abroad and monitoring vessels on the Danube.

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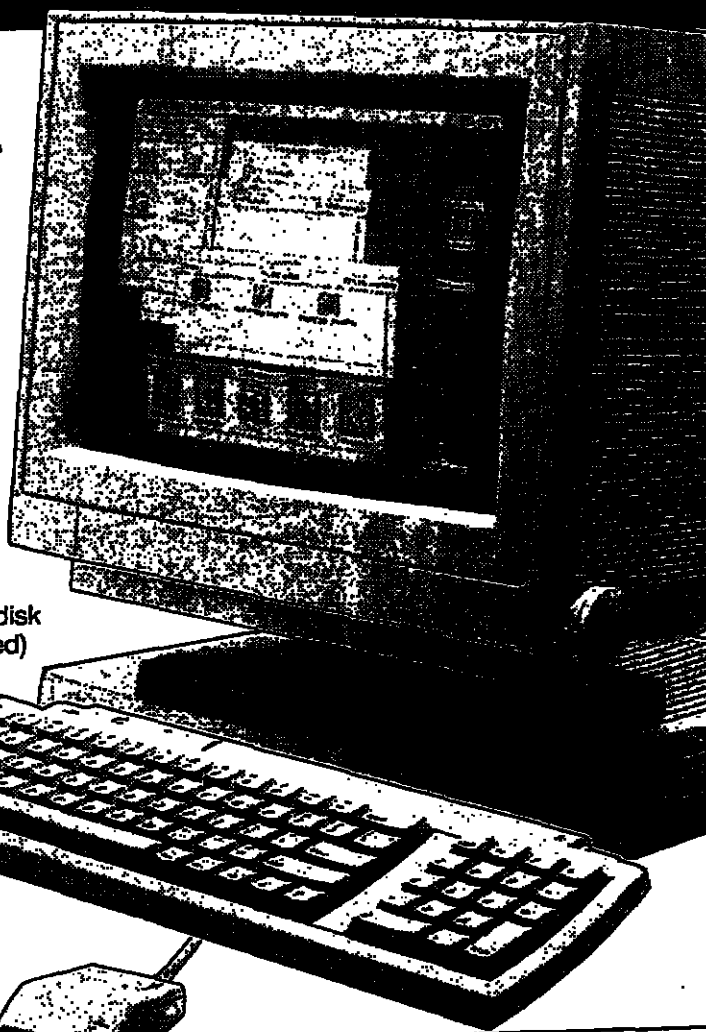
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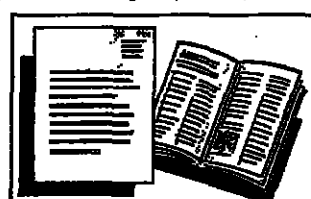
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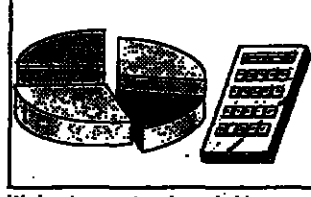
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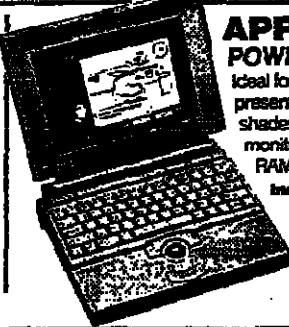
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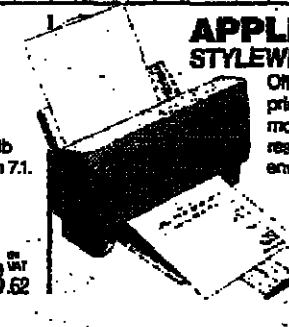
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## Britain's record on refugees under fire

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST all the Bosnian refugees who stirred political outrage in London when they became stranded at the Slovenian-Austrian border last November have still not been allowed into Britain.

The 179 refugees were en route to Britain with an aid agency based in Leeds when they became marooned at the frontier after Whitehall changed its immigration rules and introduced visa requirements for the residents of the former Yugoslav republics.

Four months later only 18 of the Bosnians have been let into this country, 148 are still in Austria and the rest have gone to stay with relatives in Germany. Most of those still in Austria have abandoned any hope of ever reaching Britain, according to Steve Beesley, of the Leeds European Refugee Trust known as Alert, which has been caring for the group. The refugees' plight emerged yesterday as aid workers, solicitors and politicians joined growing criticism of Britain's record in dealing with the refugees.

"It is a fiasco, a red-tape nonsense," Mr Beesley said yesterday. "Although we have established good relations with individuals at the Home Office, they are constantly complaining about obstruction from above. One of them told me 'we are so sorry about the delay you have had to put up with'."

The refugees who were stranded on the Slovenian border last November and who are still in Austria are living in a hotel and a hostel near Klagenfurt. "They are being funded by the Austrian authorities, and these are refu-

gees they didn't have to take," said Mr Beesley.

Four of the 18 Bosnians who eventually won entry to Britain are orphans. One of them, Muhammad Dedic, 18, is now in hospital suffering from a kidney complaint. He and his brother Harid, nine, and sisters Jasmina, 12, and Fatima, 12, arrived on December 3 last year.

The main problem facing refugees who want to claim asylum in Britain is the Catch 22-style regulations. The refugees must generally be on British soil before they can apply for asylum, but they cannot come to this country without a valid visa. "If you manage by hook or by crook to set foot on British territory, you can apply for asylum," said Ruth Bunday, a Leeds solicitor specialising in immigration law. "If a person abroad tries to apply for entry clearance so they can then seek asylum, they find there is no such form. The procedure is a total nonsense."

"The rules must seem incomprehensible to the refugees. Many people feel that some of the provisions are unworkable. The situation is becoming devastatingly worse and worse. These people are in a desperate situation."

Robert Banks, the Conservative MP for Harrogate, has campaigned on behalf of some Bosnian refugees who came to Britain before the visa rule was introduced, but who are now separated from relatives striving to gain visas.

"What is really needed is a visa office in Slovenia, for instance," he said. "I have pressed the Home Office to do this, but so far to no avail."

## Battles rage as UN convoy stays halted

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN MALI ZVORNIK

AS a United Nations ambulance convoy remained stuck at the Serbian border yesterday, violent clashes continued in north and northeast Bosnia and in Herzegovina to the south, according to reports.

General Philippe Morillon, commander of the UN troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, was arriving here from Sarajevo yesterday on his way to east Bosnia. Lawrence Jolles, representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said Gen Morillon was on his way to the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica. He would spend the night in the Yugoslav locality of Banja Koviljaca. A UN humanitarian convoy was to leave Belgrade today for Srebrenica, which is under siege by Serb forces, he added.

The ambulance convoy was stuck on the Serbian bank of the Drina river for the second consecutive day, although Gen Morillon

reached an agreement in principle on Monday for Bosnian Serb forces to let it through to Konjevic Polje, where it hoped to evacuate about 75 seriously wounded Muslims.

Larry Hollingsworth, the Sarajevo representative for the UN refugees office, said the UN was given assurances in negotiations with Bosnian Serbs in the Serbian stronghold of Pale, near Sarajevo, on Tuesday that the convoy would be allowed into eastern Bosnia yesterday.

Serb military chiefs quoted by Tanjug, the Yugoslav news agency, said that there was fierce fighting around the Muslim enclaves of Zepa, Srebrenica and Konjevic Polje, on the eve of talks in Paris between Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the international peace negotiators. President Mitterrand of France, and Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president.



## US offering 'ragbag' of ideas to aid Yeltsin

The Russian leader is unlikely to resign. If he opts for a return to autocratic rule, America would be deeply embarrassed

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

AS PRESIDENT Yeltsin began a showdown with his hardline Congress of People's Deputies yesterday, Clinton administration officials were urgently putting together what one official called a "ragbag" of ideas for new Western assistance to boost the Russian leader.

The feeling in Washington was that while Mr Yeltsin was unlikely to resign or be forced from office in the foreseeable future, his reform programme was now in serious trouble. The Congress led by the bullish Russian Khasbulatov, the speaker, was likely to further erode his authority, leaving him little more than a figurehead. It was possible that Mr Yeltsin could resort to authoritarian measures, such as declaring presidential rule.

American officials are alarmed by this possibility, which would put President Clinton in an extremely awkward position during his Vancouver summit with Mr Yeltsin next month and at

most certainly preclude the sort of aid package Mr Clinton is contemplating. It would be even more embarrassing if Mr Yeltsin took drastic action against his political enemies after Mr Clinton unveils the package.

Western economists are anxious to hear how Mr Clinton's package will be implemented. They, along with the Japanese government, would like to see safeguards against aid disappearing into an economic black hole, or even worse, doing more to hinder Mr Yeltsin's reform plans.

Professor Richard Layard of the London School of Economics and an economics adviser to the Russian government, said yesterday: "I would have thought this new programme would be more targeted than the IMF [International Monetary Fund] programme agreed a year ago. However, without the trade credits implemented so far, I think Yeltsin would be in more trouble now than he is."

However, Timothy Ash, research fellow at Heriot-Watt University and a specialist in the Russian economy, argued that aid given so far had not found its way into ordinary Russians' pockets.

"A lot of people felt they got nothing from the aid," he said. "They felt shock therapy was being imposed from outside. Yeltsin was forced to sack Gaidar [the former prime minister] partly because he was accused of taking the reforms too far, because he wanted to lure aid from the West," he said.

Russia is now Mr Clinton's top foreign policy priority. He timed the summit to give maximum help to Mr Yeltsin.



Under pressure: President Yeltsin confers with an aide during yesterday's emergency session of the Congress of People's Deputies. The speaker, Russian Khasbulatov, began his tirade almost as soon as the meeting opened

He appears to be receiving increasingly grim assessments of the situation in Moscow from sources such as Richard Nixon, the former president, who believes that without "a substantial increase in aid from the West the Yeltsin government will not survive", and the CIA.

"We do feel that Yeltsin is in greater trouble than at any time since the coup of August 1991," a senior intelligence official told *The New York Times*, although he emphasized that "Yeltsin could still pull it out".

The American administration is working on a two-part package of immediate technical assistance designed to support reform at the grassroots level, and macro-economic assistance which would have to be agreed with the

world's leading industrial nations. Mr Clinton appears to back the idea of an emergency G7 summit, but the Japanese fear that would diminish the Tokyo G7 summit in July. An emergency meeting of G7 finance or foreign ministers is more likely.

Some believe Japan's reluctance is also due partly to its territorial dispute with Russia over the Kuril Islands. "I think the tragic conflict over the Kuril islands has damaged Japan's attitude. If Japan took Russia to the international court, which it is perfectly entitled to do, it might help," said Professor Layard.

But Yoshitaka Akimoto, First Secretary at the Japanese embassy in London, said: "We have no intention to block assistance to Russia, but

we need consensus first. We think G7 should send a strong political message to help the course taken by the Russian leadership."

Technical assistance under the Clinton package could include an enterprise scheme to help new entrepreneurs, sending more American farmers to help their Russian counterparts, help for Russia's energy sector, and more advice on privatising businesses and setting up democratic institutions. The administration is seeking to increase American aid to Russia from \$417 (£287 million) to \$700 million in 1994.

Also under consideration are proposals to help Russian troops withdrawn from outlying parts of the former Soviet Union who lack jobs and housing, and a multi-billion

dollar international fund providing a social safety net for those thrown out of work by economic reform.

The principal element of the macro-economic assistance would be the rescheduling of Russia's \$80 billion foreign debt. Fresh efforts are likely to try to break the impasse between Moscow and the IMF. Russia remains far from fulfilling the conditions for drawing the \$4 billion a year in IMF loans.

Last July, President Bush and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, announced \$24 billion in G7 aid for Russia, and the fate of that package illustrates the problems of providing anything more than symbolic support for Russian reformers.

Aid to Yeltsin, page 1

## Khasbulatov take blustering cue from beast of Bolsover

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

In a welcome departure from mulling over domestic problems, Russian television news has been carrying accounts of John Major's Maastricht treaty defeat, presumably to reassure President Yeltsin that dispassionate parliamentarians are an inescapable irritation to governments, even in the most civilised democracies.

Russia's political wrangles are notoriously complex, but the present British jumble mystifies even the most sophisticated Moscow commentators. This explains why the Labour MP, Dennis Skinner, red in the face and brandishing his order paper as he graced our screens yesterday, was described as "the most prominent of the Tory Euro-rebels".

Many Russians are under the impression that Mr Skinner is the prime minister, since the rules of power here have it that he who shouts loudest, gesticulates in the wildest fashion and snarls most dramatically is the boss in any particular institution. Since the MP for Bolsover manages to fulfil these criteria admirably, he appears often on Russian television.

At the Congress of People's Deputies, whose emergency session began in a mood of more than usually rampant discord yesterday, Russian Khasbulatov, the parliamentary Speaker, began roaring Skinneresque insults and accusations into the microphone on the dot of the 10am opening. By 10.05 he was accusing the government of "extravagant exploits" and "artificial and cynical moves". Mr Yeltsin, his prime target, sat scowling above the chamber, desperately trying to conjure up the deal that will save him from the congress without losing him any more authority.

Mr Khasbulatov's testosterone count was high and his aggression was mercilessly channelled. So carried away was he by his own invective that he forgot to pause for the national anthem before declaring the session open.

The deputies were horrified

at the thought of being deprived of the chance to stand solemnly with their faces set in an expression of heartfelt loyalty to the motherland for the benefit of the cameras and their wives watching in Chelyabinsk South. "The anthem, the anthem," they squawked in a rare act of insolence towards the Speaker. "Oh, all right then," said Mr Khasbulatov.

He allowed conservative deputies to ramble at Brezhnevian length about the evils of the market economy, only to tell the next democratic speaker to be "disciplined and brief". One woman deputy who caught the Speaker's eye but not his liking was told to sit down. "But I have something to say," she protested. "It's break time," replied Mr Khasbulatov, and that was that.

Constitutional crises notwithstanding, the deputies are undeterred in their grazing habits. The Kremlin features a host of restaurants and coffee bars that dispense meat pies, rum-soaked cakes and other rare delicacies. As a result, breaks and lunchtime take up a good third of the day, making the sessions in between high-velocity affairs.

This is the eighth congress of the Russian Federation, so by now even the dimmest of the participants has got used to the speed of the votes and most of the chamber appears to be ignoring proceedings at any given time. There are always a lot of people cleaning their glasses, examining their nails or chatting to the neighbours, pausing only to press the "for" or "against" button.

Near the front sat perhaps the one member whose responses reflected the mood of the rest of the population — he spent the entire session playing with his worry-heads.

Back to hospital: Raisa Gorbacheva, wife of the former Russian leader, is to be readmitted to hospital to continue treatment for speech and motor function disorders. Mikhail Gorbachev says his wife's health problems were triggered by the 1991 coup attempt. (AFP)



Khasbulatov: bullish attacks on Yeltsin

## Defence lawyers in King trial reject claim of racial insults

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

LAWYERS for the four white policemen charged with the beating of a black motorist that sparked the Los Angeles riots last April tried to disprove the victim's claim that he was taunted with racial slurs.

Giving his first court testimony since the assault two years ago, Rodney King said on Tuesday that as the beating began one police officer had shouted: "We're going to kill you, nigger. Run!" Mr King imitated other officers chant-

ing: "Killer, nigger, how do you feel, killer?"

His testimony brought race to the forefront of the trial. Laurence Powell, Theodore Briseno, Timothy Wind and Stacey Koon are accused of violating Mr King's civil rights and could be sentenced to up to ten years in prison and \$250,000 (£175,000) fines. The officers were acquitted on criminal charges last year, triggering protests in Los Angeles that left 54 people dead.

Harland Braun, a lawyer for the defence, said no other witness had reported hearing racial epithets and insisted Mr King could not be believed. "His case will rest and fall on the question of whether there were any racial epithets."

Under cross-examination, Mr King said he was not absolutely sure if the word used was "nigger" or "killer". He admitted that he was drunk and speeding when he was chased by police on March 3, 1991, but he insisted that he had not tried to attack the officers when they finally stopped his car. "I was trying to stay alive, sir, trying to stay alive, and they never gave me a chance to stay still."

Mr King said he had led police on the car chase because, as a convicted robber still on parole, he was scared of going back to prison. "I just kind of thought the problem would go away," he said.

A soft-spoken man, Mr King, 27, vehemently denied police assertions that he had become violent after using the hallucinogen PCP, or angel dust. He said he had never taken the drug.

Mr King said the assault began when he was given an electric shock with a police stun-gun. "I just remember being kicked... My whole body was struck, all parts of my body... There was an enormous amount of pain."



Time of trial: a courtroom artist portrays Rodney King telling the court of the alleged attack

## Second bomb suspect charged

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A STUDENT in post-graduate chemical engineering was arrested yesterday and charged with helping to bomb the World Trade Centre in New York. Local media identified the suspect, the second person charged with aiding and abetting the bombing, as Adnan Ayad, a student at Rutgers University in New Jersey who also worked for

into the underground car park below the famous twin towers. A third man, Ibrahim Elgabrowny, has also been arrested for obstruction of justice after he allegedly hit an FBI man trying to search his flat. Details of the charges against Mr Ayad will be made public today, according to New Jersey police.

After finding hundreds of pounds of explosive chemicals in a storage garage in New Jersey, police now believe the bomb, which exploded on February 26 killing five people and injuring hundreds, was made of about 1,200 lb of a TNT-type explosive called

"nitrourea". In the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, a political group said it has set up a fund to help defend a Muslim youth charged with aiding in the bombing. It did not specify why it had decided to help Mr Salameh, but said the fund was being established because he had only a court-appointed defence counsel.

Muhammed Anwar Tabir, secretary of the Malaysian Action Front, said that the money would go toward Mr Salameh's legal expenses during his trial in New York and for an observer from the front to attend the trial. The front also helps Bosnian Muslims.

## Cult leader courts the media

Waco: As the siege of the fortified Branch Davidian compound dragged into its 11th day yesterday, the leader of the cult told FBI negotiators: "I'm dealing with God, not you," dashing any hopes for an early end to the siege (Ben Macintyre writes). David Koresh, who has been barricaded into the Mount Carmel compound with 106 followers since a shoot-out on February 28, has however been making strenuous efforts to deal with the media.

## Arms charges

Vienna: Fred Sinowatz, the former Austrian chancellor, and two former ministers went on trial accused of infringing Austria's neutrality rules over the sale of weapons to Tehran during the Iran-Iraq war. (Reuters)

## Suharto victory

Jakarta: President Suharto, Indonesia's iron ruler of the past 27 years, has been re-elected for a fresh five-year term and immediately chose Try Sutrisno, the recently retired military chief, as vice-president. (Reuters)

## Jamaica poll

Kingston: The Jamaican prime minister, P.J. Patterson, announced national elections for March 30, telling 100,000 flag-waving Jamaicans that the quick campaign was intended to head off political violence. (AP)

## Joint appeal

Johannesburg: Local leaders of the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party in central Natal have united to try to end the violence in the region, issuing a joint appeal to their followers to exercise restraint.

## Polish trial

Katowice: The former Polish interior minister, Czeslaw Kiszczak, went on trial with 23 other Poles facing charges arising from the shooting of striking miners under martial law in 1981. Nine miners were killed. (Reuters)

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Staff bemoan 'vicious temper'

## Resignations leave Hewson floundering

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN  
IN SYDNEY

WITH days to go before Australia's federal election, John Hewson, the opposition leader, has suddenly lost his three most valuable staff members who refuse to participate in government if he wins on Saturday.

Yesterday's announcement seriously undermines Dr Hewson's credibility, after he has campaigned relentlessly to stay just ahead of Paul Keating, the prime minister, in what will be Australia's closest election in years. With the announcement emerges a highly disturbing picture of the leader of the Liberal party.

Dr Hewson, a strict Baptist, was described by his three colleagues as having a "vicious temper", an obsessional nature, a lack of personal organisation and as a man who picked on his staff. ABC Radio described Dr Hewson yesterday as a cross between Billy Graham and Bill Clinton. After the story was broken in *The Australian*.



The departing advisers fill key positions in Dr Hewson's election team. They are Duncan Fairweather, his chief of staff; Anna Cronin, his press secretary and economist; and Tony Abbott, his speech writer.

Their decision to turn on their leader now is an indication of the desperate state of affairs within the Hewson camp. Dr Hewson has looked under increased pressure during the past few days, losing his voice at public rallies and accepting offers from Carolyn, his wife, to speak on his behalf.

Publicly the three staff members insist they are leaving for personal and family reasons and have agreed to stay with Dr Hewson through a transition period. What is extraordinary is that they are prepared to give up all the rewards that a Liberal victory would bring them.

One party source told *The Australian* that Dr Hewson's office is known as "the lion's den" because of the killing pace he sets his staff and his bouts of temper. His troubles grew yesterday when Mr Keating said he would block, in the Labor-dominated federal senate, any attempt by Mr Hewson to introduce a radical industrial relations bill, which would break union power and leave employees negotiating individual contracts with employers.

Although the opposition leader is still slightly ahead in the opinion polls, he conceded yesterday that he could face a fresh election within a year. There are suggestions that John Howard, the former Liberal leader, is preparing to take over from Dr Hewson if he fails.



Focus of attention: housewife superstar Noleine Donaher and her husband, Laurie, let television cameras film life in their million-dollar waterfront home.

## Real-life soap star finds TV fame as BBC gets the blame

■ Every curse and drunken row during six months of a rich Sydney family's life was filmed. The result is they feel betrayed

BY ROBERT COCKBURN

PLANS by the BBC to broadcast a series built around Noleine Donaher, an outspoken nouveau riche Sydney woman, and her turbulent family life are provoking the family.

*Sylvania Waters*, the 12-part documentary, is named after the affluent suburb where the tough, self-made Donaher family lives. The Donahers, with their million-dollar waterfront home and luxury yacht, are already a hit on Australian television and will be presented on the BBC this spring as a typical 1990s Australian family.

The problem is that the series reinforces almost every negative Australian stereotype. The pre-broadcast publicity could well describe Noleine as rich, blonde, boorish, racist, drunken, argumentative, mean and sentimental. She comes across as all of that and more. The show is a fly-on-the-wall, kitchen sink drama, and the Donahers, having seen their mother become the most famous Australian woman after Dame Edna Everage, are furious at their treatment by the BBC, claiming that the Australian Broadcasting Commission had preferred a less sensational and perhaps more representative Australian family for the show but that Paul Watson, the BBC producer, had insisted on choosing the Donahers.

Earlier this week, Mrs Donaher and husband, Laurie, accused Mr Watson of betraying the family of seven, who received £5,000 to have their every move, curse and drunken row filmed for six months last year in a co-production with the ABC. When shown in Australia it won record ratings and provoked a public outcry over Mrs Donaher's profane language and copious weeping.

Yet despite all her objections to the publicity, Mrs Donaher continues to be a focus of attention. She has become the subject of the most famous new painting in Australia. It is by artist Kathy Golski, matriarch of the family favoured by the ABC for the series. The portrait, featuring a predatory mangle about to attack unsuspecting Noleine, is a contender this month for Australia's most prestigious portrait prize. Mrs Donaher is also about

to launch a book, *The Sylvania Waters Diary*, in which she condemns the BBC for, among other things, leaving an unattended camera running to catch the family's most private conversations. She told *The Times*: "I believe they [the BBC] betrayed us. They absolutely made a mess of my life. I'm still not repaired. I wouldn't do it again."

Mrs Donaher, often seen drinking bourbon and coke on screen, blames the camera crew for encouraging her to drink more and going off to make the drinks. "I know Paul Watson said wars and all," said Mrs Donaher, "but he used two arguments for the whole series."

The two disputes that dominate every episode of *Sylvania Waters* are the running conflict between Mr and Mrs Donaher and the conflict between them and Mrs Donaher's son Paul and his wife, Diane, who live down the road in relative poverty, unhelped by the family because of their refusal to work. Mr and Mrs Donaher had made their fortune from nothing by running a non-union labour company.

Mrs Donaher said: "Now I made a calamity by saying Asians should all go home. But that wasn't the conversation at all. There were eight of us around my breakfast bar, including ABC and BBC people, talking about too many Asians in our country. They only put in that one caption of me saying 'As far as I'm concerned all the little buggers should go home.' They crucified me. The media here absolutely had a field day."

Another incident features a black male stripper performing at a party for Mrs Donaher and friends. Her husband is heard commenting on black people. He told *The Times*: "We were sitting in our kitchen discussing the dark fellow and I said to one of the producers, 'the Pommie fellow, I used to play football with dark fellows and they always had their own smell. They've got a BO all of their own.' Now, they used that."

Mr Watson last night rejected Mrs Donaher's complaints. "She says I use two family arguments for the whole series. But the truth is that the family was always arguing."

## 'Ordinary people' put under spotlight

BY NICHOLAS WAIT

JITTERY producers and a bevy of cameramen and technicians watched every move of a family of six for two months when Paul Watson made his first "fly-on-the-wall" documentary in 1974. The Wilkins family, who became the subject of intense media interest after *The Family* was first screened, were shown laughing, nattering and bickering in their small flat above a grocer's shop in Reading.

Mr Watson chose the Wilkins family, who lived at the other end of the social scale to Noleine Donaher, to highlight the pressures on a working-class family. He described the 12-part documentary as a "kind of real life version of *Coronation Street* or *On The Buses*".

Terry Wilkins, 39 at the time, was a bus conductor-driver and only shift work by one his sons kept down the number of lodgers he needed to take in. His wife, Margaret, who worked in the greengrocer's, said at the time that she wanted ordinary people to have their chance of a say. "It took us a fortnight of talking to decide we would sign a contract with the BBC and in principle I would pull out now. We had seen these family programmes with the shining kitchen sinks and no finger marks anywhere and we decided that ordinary people never got heard."

The BBC crew rented rooms in a pub opposite the Wilkins' flat and spent two months with the family before filming started. The Wilkins had no right of veto but were entitled to criticism. A special film technique, which does not need extra lighting, was used. In the documentary Mrs Wilkins asserted herself quietly but convincingly.

In 1974 Mr Watson said: "We believe the Wilkins are representative of perhaps 60 per cent of the people in this country. Many of the problems and crises which arise in their lives are typical of those which affect ordinary people."

He said yesterday: "I wanted to make a film about the kind of people who never got on to television. In those days you only ever saw barristers, lawyers and the great and the good. *The Family* is credited with creating the concept of the fly on the wall."

"Margaret was wonderful," Mr Watson said. "She was so refreshing and had so many ideas. On the night I chose the



Watson: tried to show pressure on the poor

family she was ill and they were all in the room with her. She was quite straight about it and they all teased each other. But when I teased one of the sons they rallied behind him. They were a great collective tribe of people."

Five years after the film the Wilkins separated and are now both remarried. "The press blamed me," Mr Watson said. "But they were very different people."

Reading did not take to the prying eyes of the television crews. The family had their telephone taken out of the directory and Mrs Wilkins had to give up her job after people came to stare. Skeletons from the family cupboard were gradually brought out by a series of newspaper articles.

"We had to stop the filming because they became such stars," Mr Watson said yesterday. "It really caught the imagination of the British public."

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## Islamic extremists die as gun battles break out in Egypt

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN CAIRO

EGYPT'S struggle against Islamic fundamentalism has led to the worst violence in more than a decade, with security officials yesterday reporting 13 Muslim extremists killed and at least 15 injured in gun battles in Cairo and the Upper Egypt resort of Aswan.

Gunfire could be heard in several parts of the capital, including the central slum district of Imbaba, where more than 700 bearded militants were recently detained in a military-style operation. In Aswan the public prosecutor said firing continued "for several hours".

The four separate gun battles pose a new threat to tourist revenue, already down nearly £700 million since the latest stage in the Islamic campaign to create an Iranian-style republic began last summer.

Egyptian officials said last night that three members of the security forces and the wife and baby of an extremist were also killed in Cairo. A security man was wounded in Aswan, which until recently had escaped the latest violence. The killings came only hours after 43 members of the militant Islamic Group went on trial for campaigning to overthrow the government.

The street and mosque battles were described as the most

■ Egypt's security forces are rounding up fundamentalists, but the evidence is that the violence is directed by leaders in exile

severe since more than 80 people died, many of them policemen, in an Islamic uprising in the Upper Egyptian city of Assiut two days after gunmen assassinated Anwar Sadat, the president, in 1981. Then as now the militants were believed to receive their Islamic inspiration from Omar Abdel-Rahman, the blind radical shaikh now living in America, whose followers have been implicated in the bomb attacks on New York's World Trade Centre.

According to Saeed Hilmy, Aswan's chief prosecutor, the shoot-out there, in which seven militants died, began after police surrounded the Al-Rahman mosque, a noted hotbed of fundamentalism. Feelings in the town were running high after the murder of a policeman guarding a Christian church.

"Police received a tip that the extremists planned to gather at the mosque for discussions, then march on the streets in an anti-government demonstration," Mr Hilmy said. "Police surrounded the mosque to prevent the demonstration. The exchange of fire ensued."

He said he did not know who had first opened fire in the battle, which left at least 15 militants wounded. Altogether nearly 80 suspects were arrested. Other security sources in the town said the security forces had stormed the mosque during late evening prayer on Tuesday night, tossing tear-gas grenades and directing a hail of automatic fire at militants inside.

President Mubarak, who frequently takes short holidays in Aswan and was there just two weeks ago, has recently ordered the security forces to open fire more readily on Muslim militants. Egyptian sources said he believed harsher repression was the only way to prevent the fundamentalists from gaining wider popular support.

The increase in violence comes amid evidence that the extremists attacking foreigners and government forces are partly directed by leaders in exile in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Among them is believed to be Muhammad Shawkil Islambut, brother of the man who led Sadat's assassins.

Terrorising tourists, page 19



Prayer break: members of an Israeli military patrol taking a brief respite from their duties in Jerusalem yesterday to offer prayers at the city's Wailing Wall, Judaism's holiest place, while fighting to hold down their yarmulkas in the strong wind

## Palestinians shun talks while deportees remain

By RICHARD BEESTON  
AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

THE Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks yesterday formally declined an invitation to return to the negotiating table in Washington on April 20.

Hanan Ashrawi, the delegation's spokeswoman, said after

the invitation was delivered in Jerusalem by Molly Williamson, the American consul-general, and returned unopened, that serious problems were still outstanding, notably the issue of the Palestinian deportees stranded in southern Lebanon.

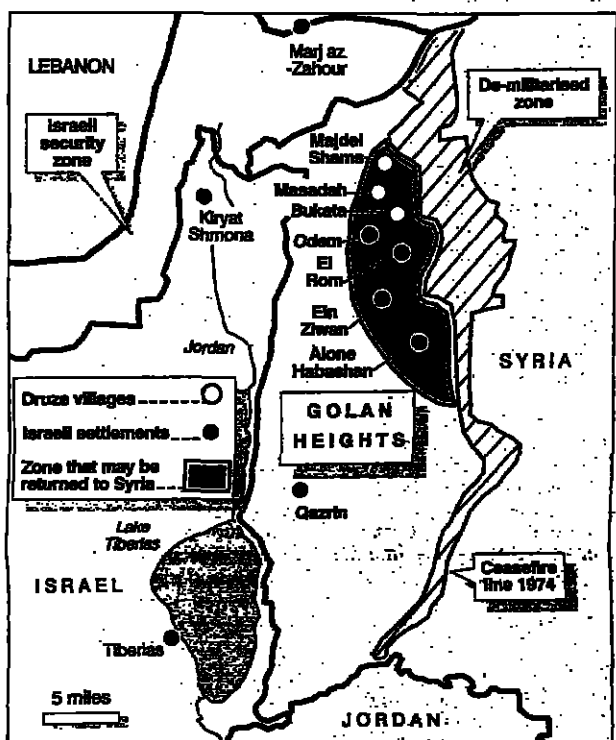
The uncompromising position taken by the Palestinians

suggests that Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, who visited the Middle East last month to try to get the stalled talks restarted, will have to redouble his diplomatic efforts to get full attendance in Washington.

Britain yesterday lent weight to the Palestinian stand on the 396 deportees by

urging Israel to renounce the policy of deportation. Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister who on Tuesday held the first ministerial-level talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation officials in two years, told Parliament that the government was urging all sides to resume negotiations, adding: "I think ... it is essential that

the Israeli government should make it plain that they do not intend to resort to the future to the policy of deportation." Israel should "look urgently at other ways in which they can lift the weight of the occupation [of Gaza and the West Bank]," he said. Mr Hogg will meet Yossi Beilin, the deputy foreign minister, today.



## Syrian peace hopes leave Golan settlers on borrowed time

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

The poppies and other wild spring flowers carpeting the bleak mountains of this windswept plateau are normally greeted as a signal by local farmers that the worst excesses of winter are coming to a close.

This year, however, there is little feeling of relief in these strategic heights, dominating Israel's northern heartland, only a palpable sense of foreboding that the spring and summer months are bringing these isolated communities closer to their destruction.

While the Israeli public will probably pay limited attention to this week's visit to Washington by Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, and the prospects for the resumption of the Middle East peace talks, scheduled for April 20, for the close-knit community in the Golan every diplomatic remark, no matter how oblique, can have a real effect on their lives.

"Everybody is talking about you, but you never know what they are saying," said Shlomo Tzadok, 35, the secretary of the moshav (collective farm) at Odem, just two miles from the Syrian front line. "There is a terrible sense that you are living on borrowed time."

Like many of the 12,000 Israeli settlers who came to the Golan after it was appropriated from Syria in 1967, Mr Tzadok is a lifelong supporter of the ruling Labour party and in particular Mr Rabin, who was prime minister in 1975 when his community was established.

Now, however, the Golan settlers can only watch helplessly as Israel aggressively pursues its new-found contacts with Damascus, and key cabinet ministers, including Mr Rabin, pledge that a "land for peace" agreement with Syria can be achieved this year.

"I feel cheated because 15 years ago they asked me to

come and live here and now they say they made a mistake and accuse me of being an obstacle to peace," said Mr Tzadok, an immigrant from Istanbul. "It is the joke of destiny."

According to Benjamin Netanyahu, a Knesset member for the right-wing opposition Likud party, the government has devised a scheme in which Israeli troops would withdraw from intelligence observation posts overlooking Syria and hand them over to American forces. Under the scheme the Israeli settlements of Alona Habashan, Ein Zivan, el Rom and Odem would be vacated and the Druze villages of Buqata, Masadah and Majdal Shams would be given up. After a period lasting up to five years, the remainder of the Golan would be returned in exchange for peace with Syria.

Speculation of that sort has already dented the confidence of the traditionally unflappable Golan pioneers and the community is now finding it difficult to attract new members. Of the 1,500 houses under construction, only 50 have been sold.

Aside from their own personal stakes in the land, most Golan settlers insist that the military value of the heights is too important to be bargained for a piece of paper and the promise of Israel's most implacable enemy, President Assad of Syria.

It is becoming increasingly clear to them, however, that their warnings will probably go unheeded if the Israeli government feels that a peace agreement, along the lines of the Camp David accords signed with Egypt, is within its grasp. Ruth Barak, 47, an accountant at the Ein Zivan kibbutz, said: "We cannot tell the world how much we want peace all these years and then, when it is offered, change our minds and say no. It is a tough sacrifice, but worth it."

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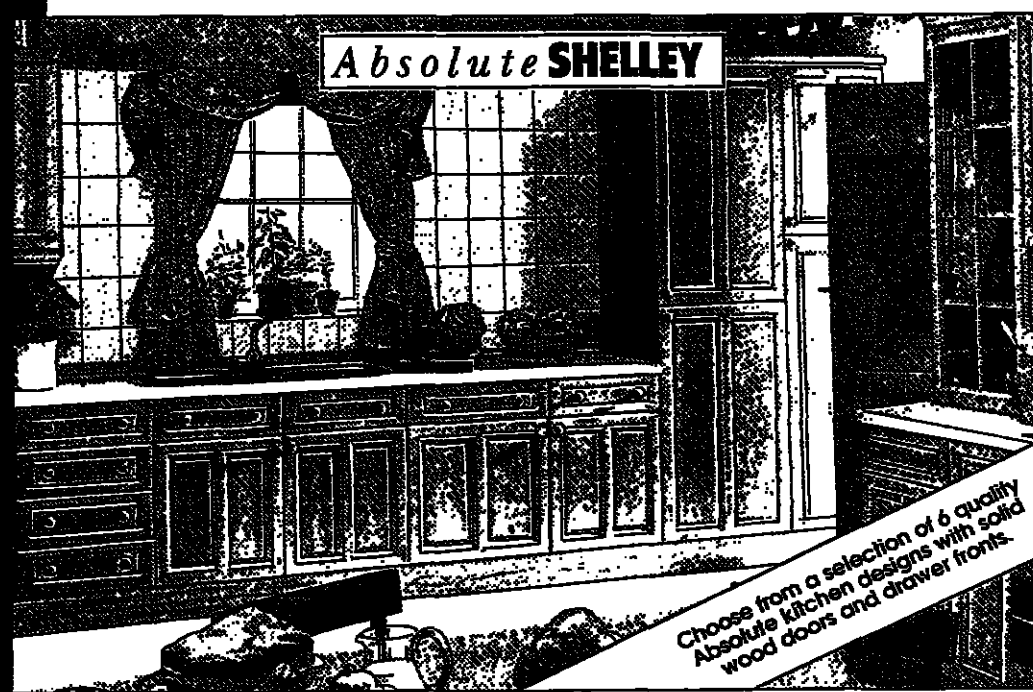
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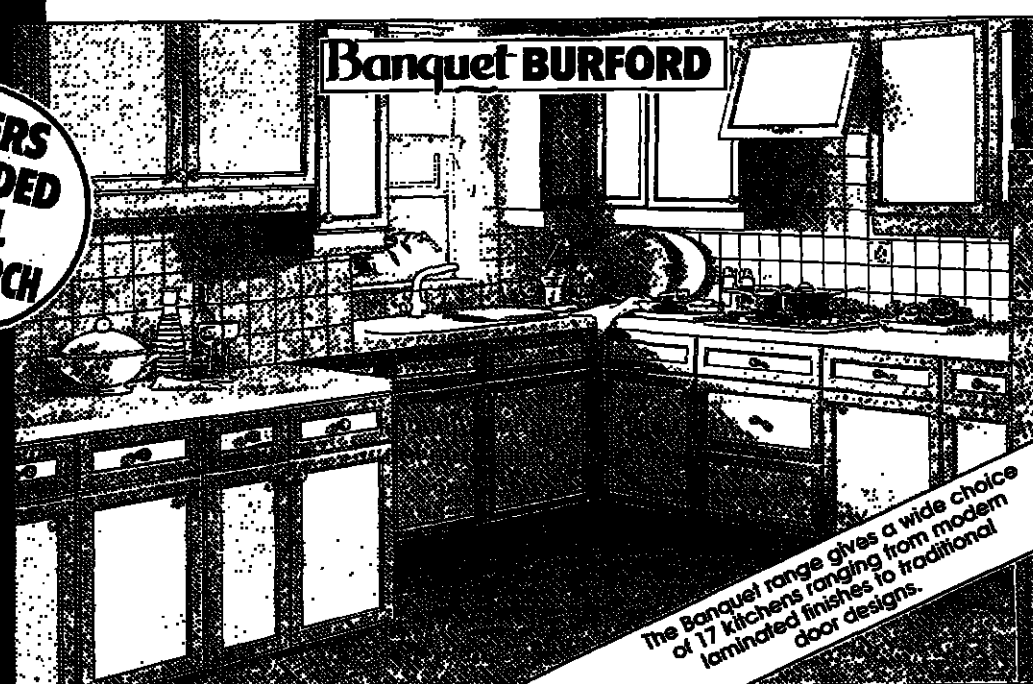
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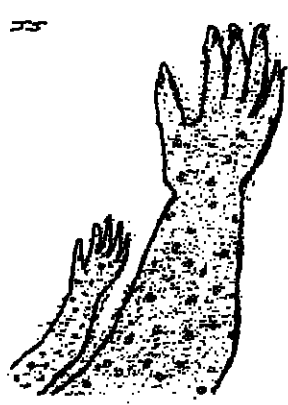


## More than a spot of bother

CHICKEN pox is one of the herpes viruses. In childhood, when the patient still has some antibody protection acquired from its mother, it is a mild complaint. Under the age of 14 an itchy rash is often the first indication that the child has chicken pox. In this age group no treatment other than an antihistamine, together with some soothing calamine lotion, is needed.

A modern, less gregarious life, may have contributed to a change in the age groups infected in Britain, but this is unlikely to be the sole cause. Although chicken pox is still essentially one of the childhood diseases, many are escaping infection in this age group only to catch it later when it may be both more distressing and even, occasionally, dangerous.

General Practitioner magazine, quoting figures from the communicable disease surveillance centre, reports that in the last 25 years the number of cases in patients over the age of 14 has increased from 68 per 100,000 of the population per annum to 184 per 100,000, and the proportion of adults to children from 12 to 25 per cent. The death rate from chicken pox, although



exceptionally rare, has also doubled.

In adults neither the patients nor their doctors regard chicken pox as a joke. The patient not only feels very ill, with a splitting headache and severe backache, but the rash can be so bad that, were it not that smallpox has been eradicated, the diagnosis could be in doubt. The disease can be complicated by pneumonia, hepatitis, encephalitis, and by a tendency to bleed dangerously and easily, or by secondary infection of the spots.

Fortunately treatment with Zovirax, or acyclovir, given at once as soon as the disease is recognised in an adult, is effective in saving many from a distressing week or two. In the immunocompromised, whether by drugs or disease (including AIDS), it can be lifesaving.

## Eating people is wrong

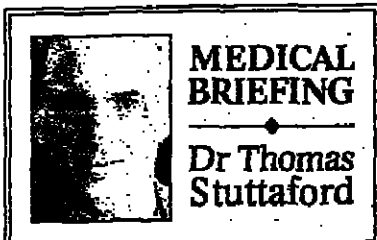
CANNIBALISM, whether in humans or farm stock, is as medically dangerous as it is ethically unacceptable.

When, in 1956, the tribesmen of the Okapa district in the highlands of Papua New Guinea were dissuaded from feeding the tastier parts of their enemies to their women folk, the incidence of kuru — a disease similar to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, better known as BSE or mad cow disease — started to decrease dramatically.

Within 25 years the number of cases of kuru had been reduced by 90 per cent and the assumption has been made that as kuru has, like all the transmissible slow virus encephalopathies, a very long incubation period (up to 35 years) the disease would die out.

Kuru is not quite the same as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), the slow virus encephalopathy most commonly found in humans, for kuru tends to devastate the cerebellum, the centre of co-ordination and balance in the brain, faster than it does the cerebral cortex. As a result, a staggering paralysis is more prominent in the disease than the progressive weakness and dementia which predominates in CJD.

Scientists, arguing in part from the lessons learnt in tackling kuru, felt that once farmers stopped enforcing cannibalism on cattle and abandoned feeding the naturally vegetarian cows with protein obtained from beef offal, BSE would die out. The experts seriously underrated the size of the epidemic



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stuttford

which eventually confronted dairy farmers — it has been four times as big and has lasted longer than was expected. Even so, the pattern of the epidemic still supports the contention that BSE is spread by feeding.

Interest in CJD and BSE persists and centres on whether these encephalopathies can be spread from one species to another, and to what extent they are variants of the same disease. Two reports this week have drawn attention to the transmissible slow virus encephalopathies. In a letter to *The Lancet* neuropathologists in Edinburgh have reported the death of a dairy farmer from CJD. The farmer, who was 61, had obviously had close contact with cows that had suffered from BSE, but had not carried out any operations on them. The likelihood must be that the farmer developed CJD by chance rather than because of his occupation. Statistically, the chances of any dairy farmer of developing the disease, which has an incidence in Britain of only one in 2 million of population, is remote. This likelihood is further decreased by a

familiar pattern being shown in only 6 per cent of cases. It is also considerably more common in women than men.

Any case of dementia in a farmer in which the dementia starts early — the usual age for CJD is between 60 and 65 years — runs a very rapid course. Symptoms such as staggering, muscle weakness, loss of vision and of speech should raise suspicions in doctors and discourage them from immediately giving an diagnosis of Alzheimer's or even motor neurone disease, which can be confused with CJD.

The other news item concerning CJD is the report in the *British Medical Journal* that the stunted children treated between 1959 and 1985 with human growth hormone obtained from the pituitary glands of post-mortem bodies — a modified form of cannibalism — are stepping up their campaign in support of their demands for compensation from the government.

In support of their claim they quote the grants given to haemophiliacs who developed HIV after being given either blood transfusions or contaminated blood products. So far eight of the patients treated with the hormone have died, and another is seriously ill.

It is not only the families of those who have actually perished who are seeking recompense, but also those who have now lived for years under the constant threat of developing CJD. The modern treatment, using human growth hormone developed from genetic engineering, is completely safe.



## Sun, skin and sensibility

THE skin of those who have laboured in the hot sun, whether in Britain or abroad, is often ravaged by its rays. More often than not it is found that the reward for a lifetime spent serving the country, or commerce, in the tropics is a wide variety of solar dermatoses, skin complaints associated with sun damage. Most are benign but a proportion are malignant.

The increased dangers of cancerous moles, or melanomas, after excessive exposure to the sun, and the need for its urgent treatment when diagnosed, are well publicised and increasingly well understood by the general public. Rodent ulcers, basal cell carcinomas,

which only spread locally but sometimes devastatingly if not carefully removed, are also more frequently found in sun worshippers.

The third type of skin cancer, epithelioma, or squamous cell carcinoma, which is also commonly found in old empire traders, is usually of low malignancy and although, when diagnosed, it is removed there is no great sense of urgency or foreboding. But a recent report in the *American Journal of Surgery* suggests that when the epithelioma occurs on the ear it is not of low malignancy but potentially very dangerous. In its review of 40 patients who had been treated, 36 had no evidence of spread of the tumour at the time of treatment; despite this, 20 had developed a recurrence within eight years and so far ten have died.

## The stitch in time that saves lines

Turning back the hands of time — and the face and body — is becoming big business. Heather Kirby gets beneath the skin of the cosmetic surgeon's world

Dolly Parton's approach to plastic surgery is like the careful car owner's: a regular 1,000 mile service is more sensible than waiting until your face looks like an old banger. The 47-year-old singer and actress recently denied stories that she had been under the surgeon's knife for 11 hours, but admitted she had told him: "Since I'm going to be asleep for a while, if you find anywhere to do a nip and tuck or suck and pucker, go ahead and do it."

Her "little and often" philosophy caused some bewilderment among cosmetic plastic surgeons in this country because Ms Parton admitted to having the "pelican pouch" under her chin removed, some liposuction and some under-eye work. As these three procedures add up to what is generally defined as a full face-

lift, it probably depends on what you mean by "little". Norman Waterhouse, a consultant plastic surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital, London, said: "There are some advantages to the little and often approach. Having liposuction under the chin, getting rid of eye bags or doing a chemical peel on eye wrinkles, or the little wrinkles on the top lip, can all be part of an on-going skin care plan, but I don't think it is the sort of philosophy which should be extended to a mini face-lift."

"This is something I feel strongly about. The so-called 'lunchtime' face-lift, where a tiny tuck is made in front of the ear to bring skin up and the patient is sent home the same day is a waste of money and time. The effect probably disappears by bedtime."

The first generation of face-lifts involved simply stretching

or pulling the skin across the face, cutting the surplus away and stitching it. It did nothing for the upper part of the face, the eyes and the forehead for instance, tended to make the face look tight, and sometimes distorted the mouth.

The second generation is the superficial musculo-aponeurotic system (SMAS). This involves cutting the skin from ear to ear in an arc two inches back from the hairline, but without shaving the head. Then, using liposuction, a hollow rod is inserted into the face and excess fat removed. The surgeon will also reposition muscles before stretching the skin back over the new alignment and stitching it from the top of the ear all the way back round.

The third generation of face-lifts is the sub-periosteal, or mask facelift, described by some plastic surgeons as producing "stunning" results. It can cost between £3,000 and £5,000 and takes approximately three hours to perform under a local anaesthetic. Surgeons cut the skin away in the same way as they do for the SMAS, but this procedure is much more invasive.

The whole facial structure is separated from the bone, hence its name. Surgeons work at a deeper level, closer to the bone than with the SMAS system, although similar techniques involving vacuuming fat cells from jowls, cheeks and eyes and redistributing muscles are common to both.

Stars such as Ms Parton belong to a new generation of celebrities who are not coy about admitting they resort to surgery to preserve their beauty, but Dai Davies, the spokesman for the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, thinks it unlikely the average person will follow the "regular service" routine. He said: "For most people,



This year's model: Dolly Parton treats herself like a car, with regular overhauls

having a facelift is a one-off. They come to a moment in their lives when they want to bolster their morale or they feel some tidying up needs to be done. People go on aging according to their genes and how long a facelift lasts depends on their lifestyle afterwards.

"Smoking, partying, sitting in the sun and stress all leave their mark on the face, but at

least having a face-lift keeps you ahead of the game. However, ageing is like a clock: you can turn it back but you can't stop it ticking."

A consultant at the National Hospital for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (NHAPS) in Birmingham, who is also a consultant at the Birmingham Accident Hospital, but who did not wish to be named for professional and ethical reasons, says: "What a lot of stars

tend to do is have a major facelift and then have little nips and tucks regularly after that. There is no such thing as half a face-lift. Either the job needs doing or it doesn't. You can return to the face from time to time and tighten it up by cutting half an inch of extra skin away."

"The scars are round the ears, which is why a lot of stars

wear big ear-rings, to hide them. How long a face-lift or any plastic surgery technique on the face lasts depends on whether you work in a smoky atmosphere or screw your eyes up in sunlight."

"One of the ways of preserving a face-lift is to wear dark glasses, but usually the average length of time before another one needs to be done is ten years."

## Nothing to lift an eyebrow at

Although Dai Davies thinks full facelifts are a once-in-a-lifetime indulgence for most patients, other areas of the face and body are being tackled earlier and are likely to be repeated as the effect wears off.

One example of this involves getting rid of eye bags. This is becoming more popular with younger people who, since they have no wrinkles there and do not want to have a scar, often opt for an operation in which fat deposits are removed from the inner lining of the lower lid by going into a pocket which exists between the eyeball and the eyelid. Afterwards the lid snaps back into position but this method is not appropriate if there are wrinkles because, with less fat to plump them out, they would be made worse.

Usually older people choose the eyebrow operation involving a cut just below the bottom eye lashes when skin can also be cut away. An eyebrow lift is another common operation, needed when drooping eyebrows cause the upper lids to bulge and descend until they seem to lie on the eyelashes. The scar remains slightly visible.

Fat cells, like brain cells, do not reproduce themselves, so once they have been removed by liposuction they are gone for good. A hollow rod sucks the fat out and afterwards the space where they once were is compressed and it heals, leaving the area smaller.

The "pelican pouch", or double chin removal, is a common procedure as is removing fat from the chin and cheeks by the same liposuction method. In the young, liposuction alone may be all that is required but an older person's skin, which has lost elasticity, would probably need to be tucked. Cheek implants for people whose face has "sunk", often as a result of

losing teeth as well as ageing, are also possible by harvesting fat cells from another part of the body such as the stomach and placing them in the cheek.

According to a spokesman at the National Hospital for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (NHAPS), the most common cosmetic plastic surgery operation is liposuction, followed by collagen lip implants, nose reshaping and eyelids. The number of liposuction operations performed at the hospital last year was 691, 16 per cent of them on men. Men also accounted for 56 per cent of nose jobs.

Breast reduction is a major operation. Several different techniques are used but they all cause significant scarring. The most usual method leaves a scar which runs around the edge of the areola and one in the crease underneath the breast and a vertical scar linking the two.

Breast uplift, or mastopexy, is an operation to lift up breasts which have sagged but it does not make them any bigger or smaller. Droopy breasts can be restored to a more useful shape by lifting the nipples to a better position and changing the position of the crease underneath.

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KATE ALDERSON

## American psychiatrists want to classify women with severe PMS as being mentally disordered

The proposal that women should be classified as having a psychiatric disorder if they go to their doctor with the symptoms of premenstrual syndrome, PMS — irritability, mood swings and anxiety — is causing a heated debate among American psychiatrists and has been criticised by the medical profession in Britain.

A task force of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) has concluded that women with severe PMS, which they have renamed "premenstrual dysphoric disorder", have a psychiatric disorder. The clear implication is that more than half of the world's population do not merely suffer the biological effects of a hormone imbalance every month, but are actually demonstrating signs of mental disturbance.

## Madness by the month

Psychiatrists who support the proposal believe recognition of PMS as a psychiatric disorder would lessen the chance of women being condescendingly dismissed by their doctor. Those who reject the reclassification say it would stigmatise all women.

Dr Katharina Dalton, who specialises in the study of PMS and its relation to crime, and first classified the syndrome in 1953, rejects the APA's proposal as ridiculous. "PMS is a hormonal illness which affects every part of the body and has 150 symptoms, two-thirds of which are physical, but there are psychological effects which include fatigue, depression,

laziness and anxiety. It occurs when the body's cells do not receive enough progesterone, which can happen when the blood sugar level is low. To offer psychiatric treatment for it is ludicrous. We would never consider curing a diabetic with psychotherapy."

Dr Dalton believes that 60 per cent of milder cases can be treated by changing eating habits. Many doctors recommend cutting out caffeine and reducing the consumption of dairy products, salt, sugar and alcohol while maintaining a high intake of green vegetables and raw food. Another solution, she says, is progesterone replacement treatment.

Of the 15 million British women who menstruate, 30 per cent say they suffer from PMS. Dr Sidney Crown, a consultant psychiatrist at the Royal London Hospital and a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, believes very clear distinctions have to be drawn between serious sufferers, such as those women who regularly become violent and aggressive, and women who suffer a milder form of tension. "It is very dangerous and inaccurate to describe this syndrome as a psychological disorder. The issue is how we treat it."

Judith Holmwood, a nurse who is one of the co-ordinators

of the National Association for Premenstrual Syndrome, based in Canterbury, Kent, does not believe it is a condition which requires psychiatric treatment. "The PMS symptoms can usually be treated by a gynaecologist or endocrinologist, and in many cases by a change in diet. However, it is accepted that post-natal depression is a psychological disorder, and it is important not to confuse the two."

APA members will vote on the issue in May, and the proposal will come up for final approval by its Board of Trustees in July. If accepted, it could mean that severe PMS would be listed in the APA's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual as a specifically defined psychiatric disorder.

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BUPA Health Screening







# TRAVEL NEWS

## Disney makes the magic work

As its first birthday approaches, Euro Disney is over many of its teething problems. David Churchill reports

Euro Disney is launching a big marketing drive ahead of its first anniversary next month. Several new attractions are planned and the resort is heavily promoting its discount cards.

Companies are being encouraged to join Euro Disney's Magic Kingdom Club which offers members savings of at least 10 per cent on theme park and hotel prices. The £2 billion resort outside Paris is also about to announce the introduction of a "white-knuckle" roller coaster and a fairground-style ferris wheel, which are being rushed into service to ease the long queues at peak times.

Latest reports from Paris suggest that the number of visitors in the first full year will be close to the target of 11 million. Attendance figures for February were better than expected and have helped the share price to recover from its pre-Christmas low of 673p to 1085p yesterday.

Staff morale, which had been low, has risen as the management has responded to criticisms, particularly that the resort lacked sensitivity to European tastes and culture.

Next month, Philippe Bourguignon, a Frenchman, becomes Euro Disney's president, replacing the American Bob Fitzpatrick. Over the past year, Euro Disney has cut the proportion of Americans on the management board from 90 per cent to 30 per cent. The rest of the directors are Europeans, 41 per cent of them French.

Euro Disney is negotiating with the Walt Disney Company which owns half of Euro Disney — to lower its royalty payments for use of the Disney trademarks. These payments, which are made irrespective of income or the number of visitors, are helping to push Euro Disney into the red. Last month, the company

announced a loss of Fr492 million (£63 million) for the first quarter of the financial year. Rigorous cost control in recent months is said to have stemmed losses.

The resort has suffered a number of teething troubles during its first year which have not gone unnoticed. Criticism of the waiting times for rides has been particularly acute.

The theme park has suffered from having too few rides and attractions to meet the number of visitors, especially at weekends when waiting times have reached two hours. Euro Disney has only 36 rides and attractions, compared with 45 in the comparable Magic Kingdom in Orlando and 53 at the original Disneyland in

and transformed it into an exciting experience by simply putting it in the dark and calling it Space Mountain.

Yet, virtually every other theme park in the world offers visitors a physically more exciting experience with 360-degree roller coasters operating at speeds of more than 50mph. Now Euro Disney has followed suit.

The company is also responding to criticism of high food prices by closing some full-service restaurants, making more snack places available and reviewing prices.

The attempt to attract Magic Kingdom Club members is part of an effort to build a sounder base for the resort's second year of operation when the "novelty" factor will start to wear off. In America, the Magic Kingdom Club is the biggest business-to-business affinity club of its type, with over 27,000 companies enrolled representing about seven million cardholders.

In Britain, any company with more than 300 employees will be able to enrol in the club. Staff receive membership cards that entitle them to 10 per cent off admission prices to the theme park, which at present costs Fr225 (£28.77) per adult. The discount is also available on hotel and some merchandise prices, and on goods from the 16 Disney stores in Britain.

There are also discounts on car hire, ferries and Hilton International hotel rooms. Individuals who do not qualify for corporate Magic Kingdom Club membership can buy a "Gold Card" for Fr250 (£32) which gives additional benefits to those available to company members.

British tourists are estimated to account for a fifth of the total number of visitors to the theme park.

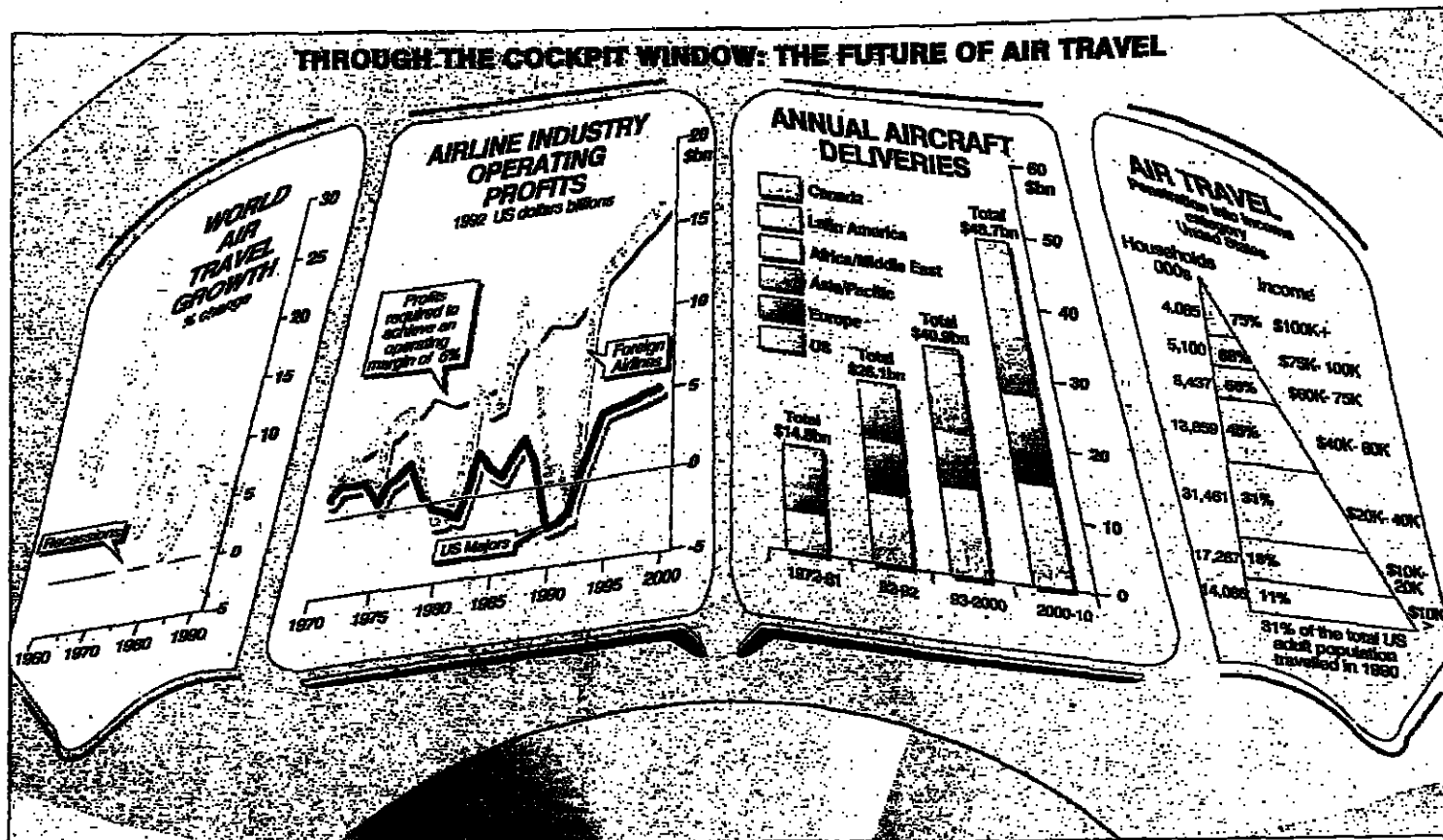
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Disney: the fun goes on

Los Angeles. Queuing times have been so long for the Big Thunder Mountain roller coaster that Disney has decided to bring in a white-knuckle ride for the first time. The Temple of Peril will be the only roller coaster in any Disney theme park which completes a 360 degrees roll — effectively turning the rider upside down.

Disney philosophy has traditionally favoured rides and roller coasters which are for all the family and create excitement by, in Disney speak, their "theming". Hence, Disney's ride designers took a mundane roller coaster ride in Orlando's Walt Disney World



## Boeing sees sunshine ahead

The travel industry's best-known fortune-teller is surprisingly optimistic about recovery

As the world recovers from recession the number of airline passengers will rise by an average of 6 per cent a year for the next seven years — but fares will also go up.

More than 2,000 old aeroplanes will be "retired" by the turn of the century as airlines re-equip with bigger, quieter, more comfortable and more efficient jets, according to a new forecast from the US plane-making giant, Boeing.

Although it has been forced to shed a further 28,000 jobs and reduce earlier forecasts of the likely demand by 5 per cent, Boeing is surprisingly optimistic about the future.

"The travel market has always rebounded after unexpected disruptions," says the company, whose annual forecasts are regarded as a barometer of the health of the whole travel industry.

"Air travel is projected to grow 5.3 per cent in 1993 as the world economy begins to recover, even though airlines are expected to raise fares from the artificially low levels of 1992. Travel growth is forecast to average 6 per cent per year to the year 2000 as the

economy further improves and airlines continue to provide travel stimulus. At this rate the market will double by 2005 and be over two and a half times greater by 2010," the company says.

Boeing says the last big air travel slump began in 1979 with the energy crisis and high inflation and that for three years the future looked bleak. "Yet from 1983 to 1989 the world economy recovered and sustained the longest period of continuous growth and prosperity experienced in peacetime," it says.

The same is now predicted to happen over the next few years, despite high debts, low profits, even lower consumer confidence and retrenchment among the airlines.

Last year 789 new commercial aircraft worth \$4.3 billion were delivered, although the number of orders slumped to 482, leading to manufacturing cutbacks.

Older aircraft are, however, becoming more expensive to operate and maintain and new noise regulations will force many to be scrapped.

There are now more than 2,100 aircraft more than 20 years old, indicating that up to 3,400 will have to be scrapped over the next 18 years.

The growth in travel and the increasing numbers of aircraft being retired means that the world's plane-makers could have a market of 12,000 new aircraft worth \$815 billion to build between now and 2010. Nearly 5,500 new jets are

expected to be delivered between now and the year 2000, an average of 687 a year. There will be a switch to larger aircraft too, with the average number of seats being flown rising to 227 by the year 2010 compared with 176 in 1980 and 193 in 1992.

Much of the growth will be concentrated in Asia because of the larger populations and economic growth there. The growth will be among leisure travellers rather than businessmen.

International business travel is gradually falling as a percentage of world travel — down from 16 per cent in 1985 to 14 per cent by the turn of the century.

Fuel prices are expected to remain low, however, enabling airlines to keep down their costs and head towards a profit margin of between 4 and 6 per cent for the rest of the century.

"Under a reasonable fares policy that stimulates travel demand these profits can still be generated even with yields continuing to decline," Boeing says.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

### TRAVELOGS

## Cold but on time

AIRLINES' punctuality is improving — especially in the winter months. The Association of European Airlines says that last year 16.6 per cent of intra-European flights were delayed by more than 15 minutes at departure compared with 18.7 in the previous year. Improvements were concentrated in the winter months, however, and in the summer the problem actually got worse. Airport and air traffic control accounted for 69.5 per cent of all delays as against 65 per cent in 1991.

### Looking up

THE number of passengers using London City Airport went up by almost 15,000 in February — an increase of 53 per cent on the same month of 1992, and the ninth month in succession that the loss-making airport has recorded a rise in business.

### Homely Wales

AN INSIGHT into Welsh village life is being promised by the Welsh Tourist Board. Six villages — Llanboidy and Robeston Wathen in West Wales, Llysven, Llanwrtyd Wells and Berriew in Mid Wales and Penrefoelias in North Wales — are offering visitors the chance to take part in day-to-day living. People on weekend breaks can go into the homes of villagers and meet residents. Pubs, restaurants, outings, demonstrations of local crafts and guided walks are included.

Travel News is edited by Harvey Elliott

THE TIMES READER TRAVEL OFFER — ORGANISED BY SWAN HELLENIC



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Tropical island dream: a cruise party exploring Sawa

trove of new experiences, including visits to local ceremonies and handicraft markets, walking through fascinating flora and fauna, and relaxing amid turquoise waters, colourful fish and coral reefs off deserted beaches.

Among the highlights of your cruise will be Komodo, home of the giant monitor

lizards, more than 10ft long; the Maumere Bay National Underwater Park and the island of Lombok, until recently completely isolated.

Here's what's in store:

### BRIEF ITINERARY

Holiday dates: April 10-25; April 24-May 9; May 8-23; May 22-June 6; June 5-20; June 19-July 4; July 3-18; July 17-August 1.

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Day 4 Sumbawa, rich in magnificent timbers. Visit the Sultan's Palace and see a traditional wedding ceremony with dances.

Day 5 Shore visit to the Duo Donggo (mountain people). Afternoon on the beach, or a visit to Sime, with its royal court dances.

Day 6 Komodo. Picnic lunch on the beach, with swimming among the fine coral reefs.

Day 7 A morning of sun and water sports off the island of Flores. Visit to a traditional village, with gift symbols of brotherhood and acceptance. Day 8 Visit Maumere, on Flores, to see traditional weaving of the famous Ikat and batik. Afternoon free to enjoy the beautiful waters of the Maumere Bay National Underwater Park.

Day 9 The Solor Islands, traditional calling point for the Portuguese and Dutch traders. Day 10 Kupang, where for years Chinese and Indian merchants traded for Timor's fragrant sandalwood. Captain Bligh also ended his epic journey here.

Day 11 Archer off the island of Sawa for a morning's water sport. Afternoon: see the dancing Sandalwood horses and a performance of dances and songs.

Day 12 Sumba, where the Ikat weaving is considered to be the finest. Afternoon free for bathing. Day 13 A second visit to Komodo, where there is a feast of birdlife, and where dolphins and whales play in the straits. Day 14 Morning walk on the island of Satonda, with its volcanic lake and lush forests. Afternoon: cruise to Moyo island where Zodiac sports craft will take passengers to the best diving and snorkel spots on the reef.

Day 15 Arrive at the unspoiled island of Lombok to visit the traditional Sasak village. Evening: a magnificent Rijsttafel dinner (Dutch-Indonesian feast). Day 16 Disembark at Bali for the flight back to London.

### THE COST

Included in the price per person of £2,835 in a standard cabin, or £3,615 in a suite (single £4,265), are one night's hotel accommodation before the cruise, transfers, accommodation and meals on board, and, exclusively for Times readers, free flights from London to Bali. Not included: hotel meals, drinks, laundry and tips.

For full details, please complete and return the coupon, or call Swan Hellenic on 071-831 1616, quoting The Times

## Tunnel avoids fines

Cross-Channel ferry operators are to fight a government decision which exempts the Channel tunnel from laws designed to curb illegal immigration, Harvey Elliott writes.

Airlines and ferry companies are routinely fined £2,000 for each improperly documented passenger they carry. Ministers have decided, however, not to impose the same sanction on the tunnel.

Ken Page, the director of the Passenger Shipping Association, said the decision was outrageous. "If uncontrolled immigration is seen as a threat, then any law which is introduced to control it should be imposed on everyone and should not discriminate in favour of one method of transport," he said.

Airlines have been fighting the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act 1987 since its introduction. British Airways paid £2 million in fines last year alone and the Home Office is now chasing unpaid fines — most from foreign airlines who simply ignore the penalties — amounting to £24 million. Ferry companies paid out well over £1 million.

A spokesman for Eurotunnel said that they were delighted at the exemption.

Ferries are complaining of a biased ruling on immigration

"This is perfectly reasonable given the problems of enforcing the Act on tunnel travellers," he said. Passengers using the tunnel will go through both British and French immigration and customs checks before leaving Britain, but then be free to drive off where they will on arrival in mainland Europe.

The checks will, however, be at best cursory, with EC passport-holders waved through.

In a letter sent to ferry operators, the Home Office conceded that they "will not welcome" the decision. "The 1987 Act makes an important contribution to immigration control," the letter read.

"There are, however, difficulties about its application to the Channel tunnel which arise from the nature of the working methods which have been agreed for applying immigration controls there."

British immigration officers, they say, would be able to refuse entry to an undocumented passenger before they reach Britain. "We do not consider it either necessary or desirable to impose a charge on Eurotunnel in those circumstances."

Mr Page was scathing in his criticism: "The tunnel reckons it will take half the traffic between Europe and Britain. This could mean that at least five million passengers a year, in each direction, would be exempt from checks while the other half would have to be subject to detailed examination by ferry or airline staff. Anyone whose documentation is incorrect could board the train in Paris and avoid all checks."

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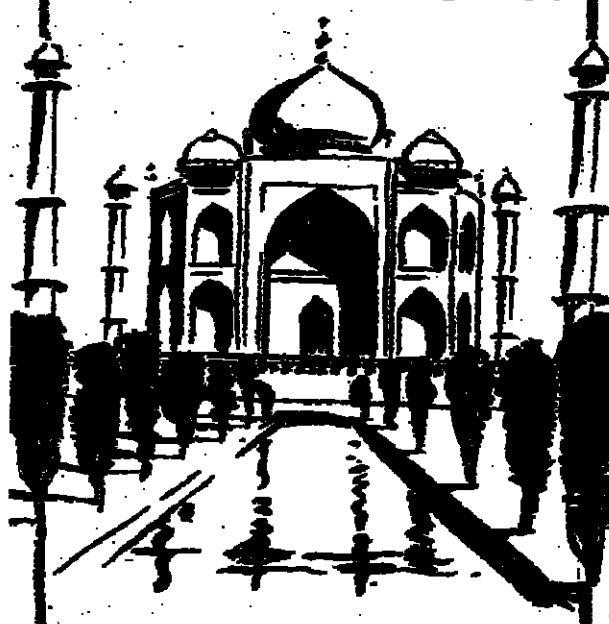
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Distribution, page 40-42

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Holidaymakers are ever more wary of being attacked when overseas. Peter Victor finds out whether the fear is justified by the facts

# The risks of staying at home

The threat of terrorist attacks on tourism should be kept in perspective, the experts say

The trial of 49 Muslim fundamentalists who have openly boasted that they have carried out terrorist attacks aimed at damaging Egypt's tourism industry has caused alarm among leisure and business travellers to the whole of the Middle East.

The defendants claimed in a Cairo military court this week that their target was not tourists, but tourism itself.

"We have to strike at tourism and Egypt's economy to get to the government," one of the men on trial said.

Security forces have already rounded up another 48 suspects and there is circumstantial evidence to suggest that the increasingly militant Islamic groups may also have links with the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York.

Airlines, tour operators and travel agents fear that any spread of terrorism could have an immediate and damaging effect on the travel industry world-wide as it struggles to recover from the recession.

Americans have often proved more sensitive to such perceived threats, while European travellers are more likely to put the fear to the back of their minds, quietly choosing destinations they believe are likely to be safe.

According to the Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism (RISCT), the onset of the Gulf war and the mortar bomb attack on Downing Street in 1991 led to a dramatic fall in transatlantic travel in the first quarter of that year.

The American Society of Travel Agents for England and Wales recorded a 60 per cent fall for the first two months and the number of passengers flying into and out of Heathrow and Gatwick fell by 22 per cent.

After the bombing of Tripoli in Libya in 1986, there was an overnight 25 per cent drop in bookings from American travellers to Europe.

The risk of tourists being attacked by terrorists is, however,

much smaller than the risk involved simply by staying at home. In 1991, for example, while American tourists cancelled trips abroad for fear of attack, 20,000 residents were murdered close to their homes in the United States.

"The chances of being mugged in New York were considerably greater than being injured or killed by terrorist action while holidaying," says the RISCT.

Tourists and businessmen can be at risk in some ways, however. Americans coming to London, for example, might assume that they are under constant threat from IRA bombs. In parts of Germany, the ultra-right are attacking foreigners.

In Spain, the Basque separatists are bombing sleepy villages in tourist areas. In Corsica and rural Wales, holiday homes are under attack by nationalists. In Hawaii, crime rates in the tourist spots are "significantly higher" than in other parts of the islands.

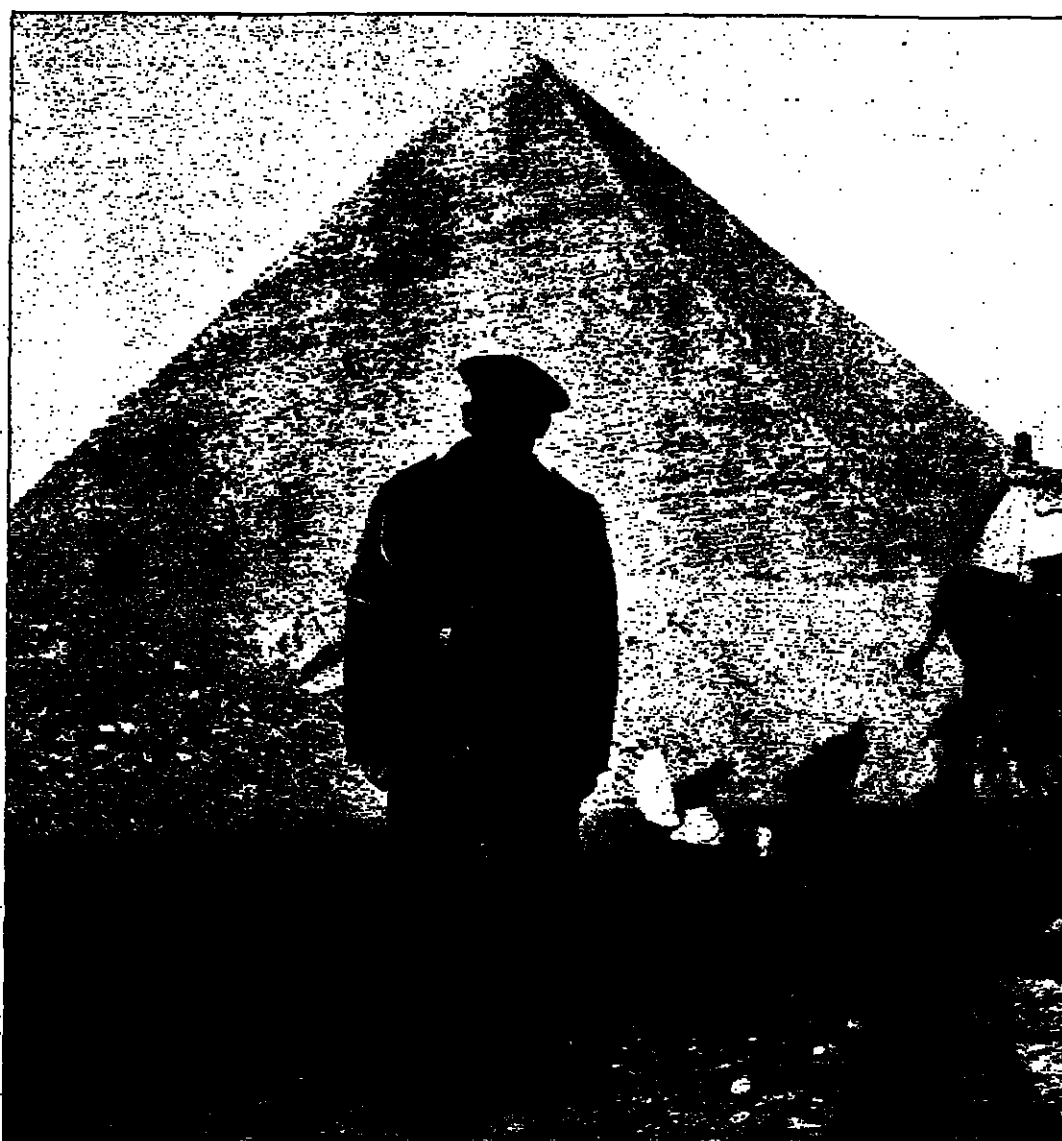
Yet travel must, and does, go on, and residents of any resort or city who have become used to the occasional terrorist out-

rage would scorn suggestions that visitors would find it more threatening to visit their home city than to remain at home.

Travel and tourism is the world's largest industry, accounting for around \$3,500 billion — 6 per cent of the world's GDP this year, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council. Almost 500 million people travel outside their own country each year, and only a tiny proportion of them suffer from violence. Britons made 31.5 million foreign journeys in 1991 and only 782 were brought back dead, including those who died of natural causes or road accidents.

Millions of pounds have already been lost, however, by Middle Eastern states following reports of the attacks, and tour operators in the United Kingdom are also feeling the effects.

Tourist buses in Egypt are now sometimes given armed guards, cruise boats are protected by helicopter gunships, and police are on special alert near the pyramids. The



Shadow over the pyramids: terrorist threats have required increased security for tourists in Egypt

Egyptians have just cause for concern as more than three million foreigners bring at least \$3 billion in foreign exchange to the country each year — nearly three times the earnings of the Suez Canal.

Fouad Sultan, the Egyptian tourism minister, says that the latest anti-government campaign, started last October, has so far cost the country £700 million, more than half of its expected annual tourist revenue. A leading British company said that bookings to Egypt were down by one-third as a result of the perceived risks of terrorist action.

The decline is largely the result of an over-reaction, according to those whose businesses depend on the tourist trade. David Eldridge, of Abercrombie and Kent, said: "It is

not people who have been before who are cancelling. It is the first-time visitors, perhaps not so worldly wise, who are having second thoughts."

Mr Eldridge said that some reports of attacks were exaggerated. "We heard of one incident where a busload was supposed to have come under fire," he said. "The truth was that a bus backfired and an excited local policeman then opened fire."

The RISCT believes that an open admission of the problem can actually help to prevent a panic-induced decline in the number of visitors. "While it might be felt that to provide information about crime and terrorist action will deter tourists and hinder their own businesses, it can be argued that the

contrary is the case," they say. "A public recognition of any threat will engender trust, and thus help the travelling public properly to assess that the risks are, for the most part, very small."

Martin Brackenbury, the chairman of the Tour Operators Study Group, agreed that travellers are not normally affected by isolated terrorist threats.

"If you look at the number of people who travel, and the relatively tiny number who get into trouble, the figures are really quite remarkable. People don't appear, at this juncture, to be put off," Mr Brackenbury said.

"That's partly because they're having to continue normal living with similar problems every day in the United Kingdom."

## Talk to an expert before you go

Some destinations should definitely be avoided, says the Foreign Office

A Foreign Office report due out next month is expected to show that last year an increased number of people had to seek help from embassies while overseas on business or holidays.

In 1991, the latest year for which figures are at present available, 157 people were repatriated to Britain, 1,055 were lent money to get home and 782 people died overseas and were brought back with help from the Foreign Office.

During the same year, more than 2,500 Britons were arrested and charged overseas, nearly half with drug-related offences. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "Tourists are betrayed by the very people who supply them. The pushers sell the stuff to tourists and then contact the police to give them away. This keeps them on good terms with their local police."

He emphasised that some countries, such as Mauritius, imposed the death penalty for drug smuggling, and that Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia all issued severe sentences.

As well as helping people who find themselves in difficulties, the Foreign Office offers advice to travellers on their intended destinations. This information is constantly updated. At present, the Foreign Office warns enquirers against visiting Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Iraq, Liberia, Libya and Zaire and suggests taking special care, and making contact with British consuls, in Cambodia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Togo. A spokesman said that anybody considering visiting troubled regions should contact the Foreign Office before going.

However, it is not only in the more unusual destinations that travellers can find themselves at risk. Even in popular tourist areas, visitors have found themselves the targets of attacks.

Six weeks ago in Kissimmee, Florida, Pauline Purnell, from Kingsbury, northwest London, was shot in the head with an air gun by two burglars who broke in to an apartment where she and her husband, John, were staying. The gunmen are believed to have attacked seven other British families in the past three months.

The Purnells are now back home. Mr Purnell believes that their hire car, which was parked

outside the apartment, identified them as tourists to the attackers. Car hire firms in Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Palm Beach have already lowered the profile of their fleets by removing identifying stickers. Legislation is before the state authorities to extend such precautions to the whole of Florida.

Tourists in South Africa also need to be alert to the possibility of armed attack or mugging, according to the Foreign Office. A British woman was raped on a beach south of Durban at 8.30am on December 10 as she sat reading a book. The woman was on holiday at a caravan park at Illovo beach. The attack came just a week after two British women were stabbed to death further north in Natal. Julie Godwin and Elizabeth Over, both aged 30, had been relaxing on a beach.

South African police now advise tourists not to stroll alone along deserted beaches. The British Foreign Office said: "Visitors should be aware of the risks both in cities and isolated areas any time of the day. In general few British visitors are experiencing problems. However, local advice should be sought on visits to townships, and areas where there have been recent outbreaks of violence should be avoided, including the border area between the Ciskei and the Transkei."

Tourists have also been experiencing problems closer to home. Last August in France, several families, including at least three from Britain, were forced off the road by armed gangs posing as police. One family was robbed of £1,000 and its car.

The number of raids on tourists travelling by train to the Côte d'Azur in sleeping cars has been causing increased concern. In the past three years, gangs have committed more than 4,000 robberies. They strike during the night when most passengers are asleep, knocking them out by spraying gas under compartment doors before breaking in using skeleton keys.

Five people are now being held after being tailed by detectives and railway police for five months.

Foreign Office advice line on destinations to be avoided or where precautions are needed: 071-270 4129. The information is available on Cefar pages 564-567.

## French chefs robbed of star status

The new edition of the Michelin Red Guide to France has brought acute misery to more than 30 chefs whose establishments lost stars. Another 15 places which previously held stars for the excellence of their cooking dropped into black holes, being entirely omitted from the new guide (Michelin France 1993, £12.50), though in most cases that was because of closure or change of management.

Greatest of the falling stars to suffer demotion was Roger Vergé, of the Moulin de Mougins on the Côte d'Azur. His *cuisine de soleil* (the title of his book, so successful that it also appeared in English translation) has evidently been put in the shade as far as the Michelin inspectors were concerned. He went down from three stars to two.

There are still 19 three-stars

The gourmet's bible pulls no punches this year



in France, though, because the new book promoted Pierre Gagnaire in Saint-Etienne, Britain, by contrast, has only

two three-stars, Michel Roux's Waterside Inn at Bray and Pierre Koffmann's Tame Claire in Chelsea.

The Auberge Lion d'Or at Coligny near Geneva, Switzerland, which is included in the French book, dropped one of two stars, but promotions increased the total of two-star establishments from 81 to 84. Newly promoted are Gournard-Pumier and Pré Catalan in Paris, La Belle Otero in Cannes, Chantecier at the Hôtel Negresco in Nice, the Auberge du Cap at Fleuri in Bourgoin, and the Domaine des Hauts de Loire at Onzain.

The galaxy of single-starred establishments diminished from 502 in last year's book to only 488 this year; but then Britain boasts only five two-stars and 42 single stars.

ROBIN YOUNG

## Jamaican mums

MOTHERS and up to two children are offered free accommodation at Jamaica's Franklin D resort during May as a Mothering Sunday special offer from Tradewinds Faraway Holidays (0800 585 976).

The company is charging the cost of British Airways flights to Jamaica — £420 for mothers and £210 for children under 12. Fathers have to pay the full price of £1,171 for seven nights and £1,897 for 14 nights. Flights depart each Wednesday and the special price for children is available until July 2, 1993.

FLIGHTS from Manchester Airport to Minorca for a week are available from Avro (061-489 2989) for £99. The company has a selection of flights to destinations in the Balearics and the Mediterranean.

AN environmental expedition to see the wildlife of Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands is on offer next month from Journey Latin America (081-747 8315). The journey will take in Quito, Ecuador's capital in the Andes, Otavalo and the rain forest region. Departing on April 1, the expedition costs £2,275 and lasts 23 days.

SUNMED (061-831 7000) has two weeks for the price of one breaks to Greece. Holidaymakers can choose from ten Greek islands. Resort and accommodation details are given on arrival. Prices start at £99 for 14 nights self catering in Corfu, based on Gatwick departure on May 3.

A round-the-world fare from £791 is available from STA Travel (071-937 1735). Departing in May, the fare includes flights from London to Bangkok, Bali, Melbourne, Cairns, Sydney, Fiji, Hawaii, Los Angeles, New York and return to London.

SLOVENIA Pursuits (0763 852387) has an Easter offer on farmhouse holidays in the Slovene Alps. Departing from Heathrow on Good Friday (April 9) and returning April 14, five nights' bed and breakfast is available for £62.50, with children up to 10 at £50 or less.

## Pull of Eastern promise

Businessmen around the world are increasingly excited by the prospects presented by countries of the former Soviet bloc. As the number of business trips to such cities as Moscow, Prague, Warsaw and Budapest rises sharply, businessmen are falling for their charms.

An American Express Travel survey of 800 companies from America, Europe and Japan reveals that half of those who have visited those four cities on business would like to go back and introduce their partners to the architecture, restaurants and culture. A significant number of travellers thought the hotels and restaurants as good as anywhere in the West.

Many visitors, however, were frustrated by government regulations and the poor quality of telecommunications, criticised by 75 per cent of those interviewed.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

## Autoroutes to speed drivers' progress

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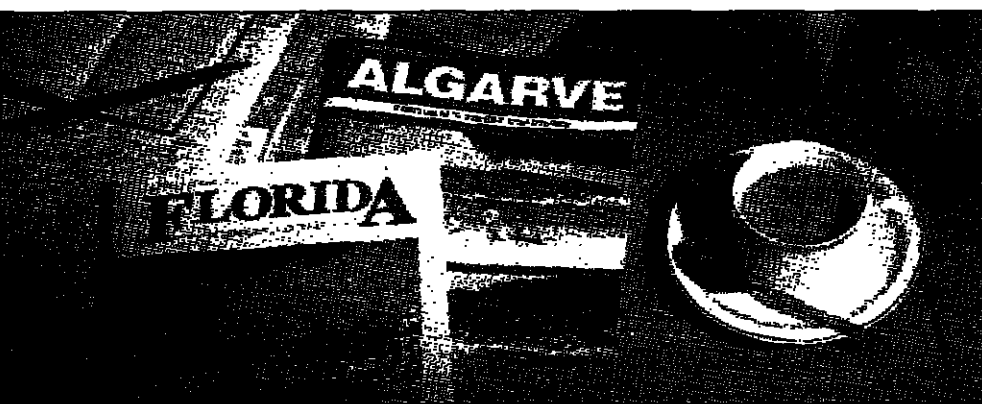
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## Philip Howard



■ At school I was called Chippy because generations before me Howard liked woodwork

Names are peculiar old magic. How we address each other has always been both conventional and confused. But in our modern age of informality and feeling at ease with ourselves, what we call each other has become more confused and less conventional than it has been since prehistory, when a grunt and a biff with a club counted as a formal introduction.

In the scribbling trade one gets used to being addressed by one's first name, or first name plus surname, by complete strangers who are trying to sell you something, and want to sound friendly and on the inside track. In the new registers of mags and ads and tivities Mr has come to sound stuffy and a bit threatening. And the Mrs/Miss/Ms/first name/first name plus surname choices are a minefield of explosive nuance that must be tiptoed carefully. But I was taken aback to be addressed by my plain surname by an elderly gent the other day, as used to be the code at school. When I laughed about it to another elderly gent, he drew himself up and said, deliberately: "By calling you by your surname he was treating you (quite wrongly) as his equal. Mr plus surname is how he would address his gardener." We have now happily resolved our incompatibility of forms of address by doing the modern thing, and falling into speaking to each other by mutual first names.

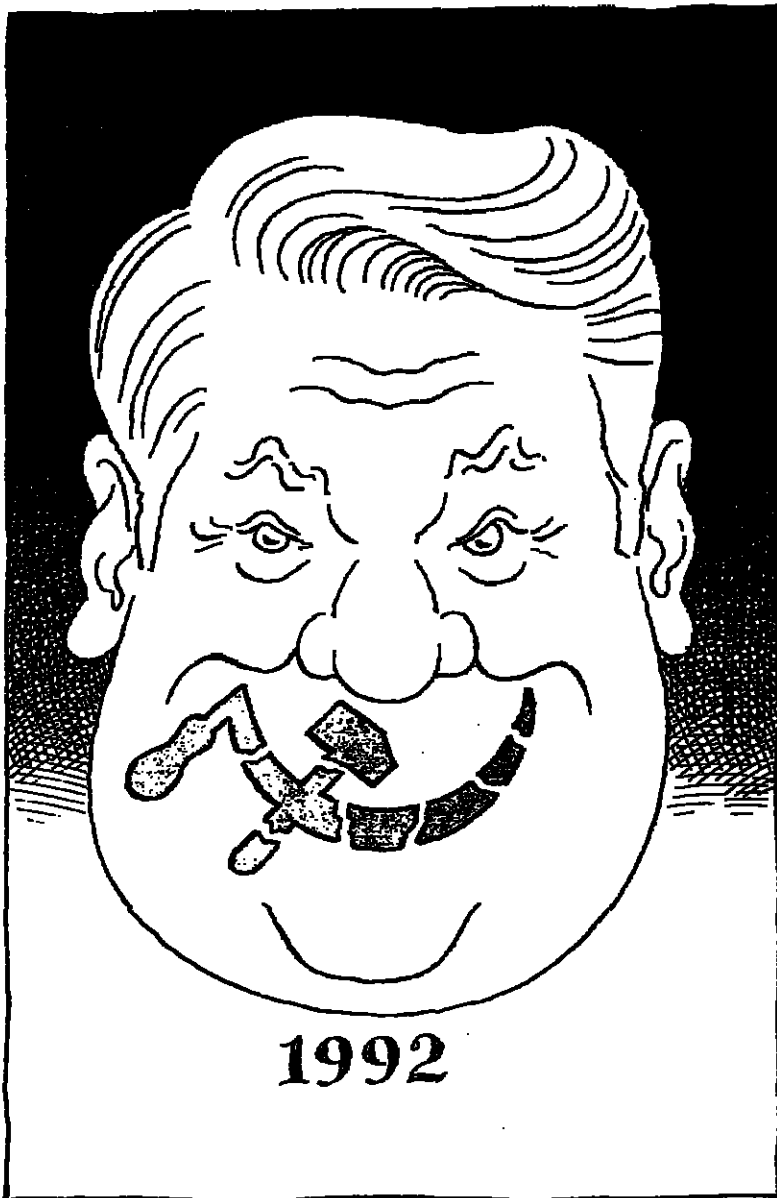
Modern manners over address are a great deal laxer than they were a century ago. Then women of the middling classes might go through their entire lives after childhood without addressing a male (other than the gardener) by his first name. This partly explains the great success of Victorian saga novels, in which women could be on first-name terms at least with the heroes, even though they were not with their husbands. Dickens was so shocked at a dinner party when a male guest referred to his wife in public as "darling" rather than Mrs Surname that he threw himself on the floor and waggled his legs in the air to demonstrate that a taboo had been broken.

One English way round the awkwardness of address is the nickname, such as Rache for Rachel or Shorty for somebody highly (or, ironically, shortly) disadvantaged. This has the advantage of a private code and a shield for the personal name. Nicknames are on purpose esoteric. At my prep school anybody called Howard was nicknamed Chippy, not because Howards are notoriously short-tempered, but because a Howard generations before had been killed in the first war. And he had been good at carpentry.

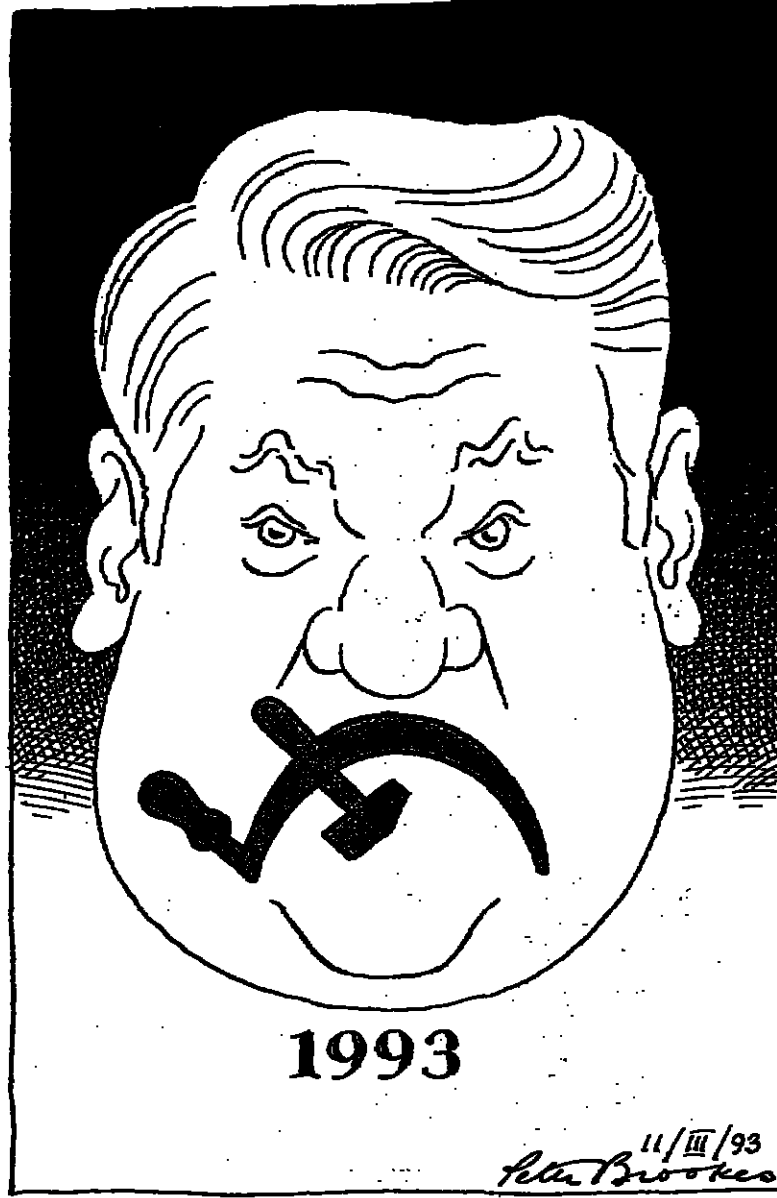
The pattern seems to emerge that the upper classes go in for nicknames such as Squiddy, or Sausage, which is apparently what the Duke of Edinburgh calls the Queen informally and improbably. The nicknaming tendency and many of such nicknames go back to the nursery, the boarding school, the junior common room or the regimental mess. The middle classes fight to preserve the integrity of the whole name. Nickname by abbreviation, as in Tel for Terence and Nan for grandmother, is seen as a bit EastEnders. Some nicknames, such as Polly from Mary and Peg from Margaret, have meandered a long way from their sources.

Abbreviating for ease or informality is an English tendency. There is economy as well as inflation in the language, though you might never guess that from reading *Horatio*. The English love to abbreviate their names and other words, for speed or chumminess. The full 25 letters of hackney taximeter cabriolet have been eroded to three letters in cab. The only connection between the modern cab (which is never there when it rains, and is picky about where it will go these days) and its ancestor the hack horse for hire is that it is for hire, when you can find it. Or consider the progressive dwindling down the centuries from Mea Domina to Madonna to Madame to Ma'am to Mum to 'M as spoken in dated domestic comedies.

Our nicknames are the most common example of the English tendency to shorten, and themselves exemplify the tendency. Nickname started as an *ekename*, that is, an extra name. It changed to *nickname* by a confusion called *metanalysis*, in the same way that the Latin *natrix* or water snake changed to a *nadder* and then an *adder*. It can be a sign of English network and friendship to have a special name.



1992



1993

11/III/93  
Rita Brookes

## Roll-call of dishonour

A group of Tories who should know better flagrantly betrayed their principles in the Lords this week

On Tuesday I spent a happy evening in the House of Lords voting against the government. I came away feeling that I should do it more often. The occasion was the committee stage of the housing and urban development bill: the amendments which I supported were designed to remove obvious defects from the bill, and were voted down by a curious coalition of Conservative loyalists with the Labour and Liberal parties.

This bill is famous because it will destroy the great London estates, but in fact goes much wider than that: only about a quarter of the flats and houses of which the leaseholder will be able to buy out the freeholder are in London. It was put into the Conservative party manifesto as an election bribe, but is basically a socialist measure. It destroys existing residential leasehold contracts, and transfers value arbitrarily from landlords to tenants.

Anyone who believes in the sanctity of contracts — as Conservatives used to do — has to be opposed to it. Anyone who wants to revive the private rental market must also be opposed to it — the Conservative party has now shown in unmistakable terms that landlords can expect no mercy when even a couple of constituencies are at stake. If Conservative politicians declare themselves to be the enemies of landlords, they cannot expect businesses to invest in rented properties, whose terms of tenancy could also be changed at any time in the future.

Those are general arguments. The three main issues we were discussing on Tuesday night were tenancies owned by non-residents, leaseholds owned by charities and leaseholds of heritage properties. Is it reasonable that a non-resident tenant, perhaps living abroad, owning a leasehold flat as an investment, should be able to buy out the ground landlord? Is it reasonable that value should be taken from charities, like Smith's Charity, and transferred to other very wealthy leaseholders? Is it reasonable to disintegrate estates in heritage areas? They are even raping the cathedral closes. Leases which survived the ruthlessness of Thomas Cromwell and the greed of King Henry VIII will now be torn up by a professingly Conservative government. We voted on the first and second issues, and did not press the third to a vote. We were defeated by 185 to 147 votes on the first division, and by 116 to 82 on the second.

There were two things that surprised me. The first was that the government

were so obstinate. One would not think that the policy of the government required them to force a landlord to sell out to another landlord, just because he is lower down the chain of leases. There may be some point in bribing genuine tenants, who live in their flats, which was what the Conservative manifesto promised to do.

There can be no point in taking an asset off Lord Howard de Walden, and giving it to an overseas property investor, when the person who actually lives in the flat may not be able to claim the freehold. Nor should it be government policy to destroy the centuries-old investment base of Smith's Charity. Nor has the government previously shown its newfound determination to destroy the national heritage. Though, come to think of it, St Bartholomew's Hospital is not much safer than the Smith's Charity estate. Surely this obstinacy shows weakness, obstinacy usually does.

The other surprise was the number of normally right-minded peers, people who seem to believe in law and property, who voted with the government. Who were the guilty peers? Lord Alexander of Weedon, a great lawyer and the chairman of the NatWest bank; Lord Finsberg, who was once a housing minister; Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, who has spent a lifetime upholding Conservative principles and the sanctity of the law; the Duke of Norfolk, who is a man of conscience; Lord Stevens of Ludgate, who would not want to have the *Daily Express* expropriated; Lady Thatcher, who is thought to be a Thatcherite; Lord Thorneycroft, who resigned in the cause of sound money.

They all voted to allow people who do not live in flats to buy their freeholds from landlords who do not wish to sell them. It is hard to imagine anything more arbitrary and absurd. They refused to make a socialist bill slightly less unfair, and went into the same lobby as the Liberal and Labour parties. In the House of Commons that is now thought

to be a very disloyal thing to do, at least when it is done against the government and not by them. I was sorry to see people I admire drawn into voting on the wrong issue, against the merits, in company with their bitterest political enemies, in support of the socialist legislation of a supposedly Conservative government.

I have not been a good attendee at the House of Lords in recent months. This has had several reasons; one of them is that I seldom vote in a division in which we are not defeated. As a journalist I hold a number of relatively complex views; as a crossbench peer I confine myself to simplicity. I support John Locke's trilogy of "life, liberty and estate".

"Life" leads me to vote to restrict abortion, and will lead me to vote against euthanasia when that lobby reaches fruition. "Liberty" makes me concerned about preserving the right of the House of Commons to determine British economic policy. "Estate" makes me vote to protect the rights of property. As Jefferson did, though he altered the phrase, I believe that "life, liberty and estate" are the foundations of civilisation, and that the weakest individual suffers far more than the strongest when they are undermined. I vote in the interest of embryos and the Duke of Westminster; both are threatened species. More embryos have been killed in Britain in the last 25 years than the military casualties of two world wars; the Duke of Westminster is not dead yet.

The Maastricht bill and the housing bill — two essentially socialist measures — are being and will be carried through both Houses of Parliament by a *de facto* coalition of the major parties. That coalition commands a permanent majority. Those of us who vote against the coalition are regarded as "crazies"; indeed the *de facto* division in British politics is not between Conservative and Labour, but between the crazies who reject this unacknowledged coalition, and the "coalies" who accept it.

There are crazies in both Houses and in all parties. Of course the crazies do not agree on all issues. In the House of Commons the anti-Maastricht Conservatives are certainly crazies, but so are Labour members like Tony Benn, Bryan Gould and Dennis Skinner. So, on other issues, are Frank Field and David Alton. In the House of Lords Lady Thatcher is really crazy, despite her unfortunate vote on Tuesday; indeed it was the strength of the secret coalition which forced her out of Downing Street. Lord Harris of Greenwich is as crazy, though Lord Harris of Greenwich is as sane as coal. Lord Wyatt is almost reliably sane and so is Lord Tebbit. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead is sane, and indeed can be regarded as the *eminence grise* of the coalie party.

The central theme of the secret coalition is socialism by regulation rather than by ownership. Its power base is the bureaucratic network in Britain and Europe. Naturally the coalition is solidly in support of the Maastricht commitment to federalise European economic policy. Until we were rescued by George Soros, it was unanimously in support of high interest rates and the ERM.

In the House of Lords the coalition preserves the moral climate of the 1960s; we are a House in which everything is 30 years back. The coalition has regained power after its defeats in the 1980s; it is always seeking consensus, always has a bland utilitarianism of principle, seldom faces the real issues, is always willing to give a little more ground in retreat, but adds year by year, and parliament by parliament, to the volume of regulation which have forced up British costs and lowered British initiative.

At present the coalition would look alarmingly strong, if the parties did not look so alarmingly weak. John Major and John Smith are as much natural coalies as Margaret Thatcher and Michael Foot, ten years ago, were natural crazies. The two Johns believe in consensus far more than they believe in principles: one is less than half a Conservative; the other less than half a socialist. Naturally they often agree. Whenever British parties are in agreement, they are always wrong. They agreed about the ERM; they agreed about Maastricht; they agreed in disposing the landladies. As Reginald Maudling said when he became Chancellor: "It will probably all end in tears; it almost always does."

## Central office thuggery

Nicholas Budgen on the strong-arm tactics of the whips

I am now a reluctant recruit to the cause of a referendum on the Maastricht Treaty. I had hoped that Parliament would be allowed to give its mature judgment on this issue. After such a judgment, the treaty would either be ratified or rejected. In either event, Parliament would convey the consent of the people. I am now convinced that Parliament and more especially the House of Commons has not been allowed and will not be allowed to give such a judgment.

The crucial argument that has now driven me to support a referendum is the behaviour of the whips and Conservative Central Office towards those who oppose the treaty. Many of us have been consistent opponents of further European federalism and centralism. We believe that we have a significant point of view that ought to be aired in Parliament. Indeed if we had not spoken out over the years it is highly doubtful that Mrs Thatcher or Mr Major would have obtained the many concessions which they have wrung from Europe. We are now being treated as the pariahs of the Tory party. In the last week the whips and central office have done all that they can to prevent me and others from expressing a judgment about Maastricht. This behaviour deprives Parliament of its essential role of expressing public opinion.

In 1974, when I first became an MP, I was in favour of the Common Market, believing that it would be possible to have a free market without direct elections to the European parliament and monetary union. I had not understood the Treaty of Rome as a federal European constitution. I was wrong then, as the government is wrong now about the new treaty.

When direct elections to the European parliament were introduced in 1978, I began to realise how wrong I was. I voted against the bill authorising them and have since voted against every measure extending the power of the European institutions. During 1986-88 I spoke against the Lawson boom which was caused in part by shadowing the mark. I understand that the government now agrees with that view. I voted against the Single European Act in 1987 in the belief that qualified majority voting would diminish the power of our Parliament. I understand that Lady Thatcher now agrees with that view.

When the treasury select committee considered the Delors report, I argued against fixed exchange rates and voted wherever possible against the exchange-rate mechanism. I do not now entirely understand the government's economic policy, however I believe that the government or some of its members now agree with me about the ERM.

I recount this with no sense of personal pride; it needed no genius to come to these conclusions. All I did was to attempt to offer some judgment, which I considered to be part of my role as an MP.

The government is no longer prepared to allow Conservative backbenchers to exercise any judgment. Before the saving debate on November 4 David Liddington, a senior government whip, encouraged my constituency chairman to go on television to disagree with me publicly with a view to undermining my position in the constituency. The conventions of Conservative whipping have been broken. In the past neither the whips nor the party organisation interfered between a member and his constituency party. In November, Sir Nicholas Fairbairn wrote to *The Times* giving evidence of whips' threats to reveal allegations about the private lives of Conservative MPs to the press.

Sir Norman Fowler, in his speech at Harrogate last week, said that the rebels were elected to support the government and that Tory politics were not an *à la carte* menu: "We cannot choose to support our leaders on some issues in our manifesto, and attack them on others."

That view is both unconstitutional and unwise. It is unconstitutional because it does not distinguish between the role of the minister and the role of the backbench MP. I resigned from the government and am well aware that a minister must accept and support everything or leave the government. A backbench MP is elected both to support his party and to be a check upon the executive. He is not an employee of a party with an elective dictatorship. Indeed the whips and the central office machine are behaving in a way that most of us only associate with the Communist party.

Sir Norman's words were also unwise. They were taken by party activists such as my constituency chairman to be an invitation to attack their member. A few days later he emphasised that he was not encouraging desertion. However, on March 10, Robin Hodgson, chairman of the West Midlands Conservative Council, wrote to *The Times* approving of any move towards the desertion of William Cash or myself. Sir Norman is like a man who sets the dogs on you, and then says that he never intended them to bite.

Maastricht will govern Europe into the next century. If the people are to be governed by individuals or nations over which they have no control, then their consent must be obtained. Now, only a referendum will confer consent.

The author is Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South West.

## Solitary splendour

AN ABILITY to survive 90 days in solitary confinement on bread and water is an unlikely requirement for the head of an Oxbridge college, even in these straitened times. But Clare College, Cambridge, is taking no chances.

Clare has just appointed as its master Professor Bob Hepple, a man whose radical chic would make him the toast of the junior common room. Not only has he spent three months in a Pretorian jail, he was one of the first white members of the ANC and a close adviser to Nelson Mandela.

Hepple, who is currently professor of English Law at University College, London, joined the ANC while an undergraduate at Witwatersrand University. Deeply committed to the cause, he went on to become an attorney before being appointed a lecturer at his old university. By this time he was a close associate of Mandela. "Nelson Mandela was arrested in 1962 on his return to the country after leading a campaign against the government," recalls Hepple. "He was put on trial. He defended himself but he asked me to sit with him in court and give him advice. I helped him in what ever way I

could. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment."

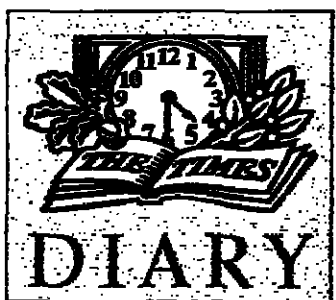
After the trial, the authorities raided the ANC headquarters and found papers which, they alleged, incriminated Hepple. "I was detained for 90 days without trial in Pretoria for anti-apartheid activities. I was in solitary confinement."

When he was released he fled the country to avoid being forced to give evidence against Mandela, who was in the dock again.

"I was put on the restricted persons list, on which I remained for 27 years, until Mandela was released," says Hepple, who on reaching England went to Clare College as a mature student and then became a fellow. But the ANC flag will not be hung in his study at Cambridge. "I don't believe in exile politics," he says.

## New bloom needed

THE TORY PARTY, desperate for cash to pay off its growing debt mountain, is to pay it with flowers — or at least try to. Conservative Central Office, which recently axed 62 staff in an attempt to balance the books, has launched a fresh-flower marketing scheme.



For just £10.99, Jersey Flowers will send 18 long-stemmed carnations, of all colours except blue, to any address in the United Kingdom, with £2 donated to party funds. They will have to sell a lot of flowers. At the last count Central Office was in debt to the tune of almost £20 million.

## Mona-poly money

CONSOLATION for Mona Bauwens, who received not a penny in damages after settling a libel action against *The People* this week. Her father Jaweed Al-Ghussain, a leading Palestinian official, has accepted an offer for the family mansion in Hampstead, which has been on the market for a year. The house, called Sunningdale, where Bauwens has been pictured in a leotard sitting astride a rock-

ing horse, was first offered for sale at around £6 million. But the recession has devastated prices in this rarified market, and Al-Ghussain has lowered his sights accordingly. Sunningdale is now under offer for nearer £3 million.

## House of study

DESPITE winning four general elections, Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, who is 77 today, insists that the establishment of the Open University in 1969 was his proudest achievement.

Twenty-four years on, life membership of the Open University Graduates Association has been conferred on the founding father. The ceremony took place in the of-

fice of Lord Graham of Edmonton, Labour chief whip in the House of Lords and still the only MP, past or present, to complete an OU degree while in the Commons.

Graham says Wilson was "ticked pink" with the award. "Harold gave life to the OU," he says. And the family's connection survives to this day. Wilson's son Robin is one of its maths lecturers.

## Letters from Iceland

SO THE frostbite, hypothermia, memory loss and sun blindness were worth it. Sir Randolph Fiennes has sold the account of his Antarctic marathon to Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson for an estimated £250,000.

Sinclair-Stevenson, who hopes to publish the book in October, is delighted. "Fiennes is one of the last heroes. But I also wanted the book because he is a good writer. It's pretty rare to find an adventurer who can write."

The book, as yet untitled, will be Fiennes's tenth. Aside from his autobiography, *Living Dangerously*, and a novel, *The Feather Men*, the others have all been accounts of his journeys. True to form for a man who spent 95 days trudging 1,345 miles across the Antarctic, Fiennes has set himself

a strict deadline. He will start on May 1, and is confident of delivering 80-100,000 words on July 31. Others predict he may need rescuing from his study towards the end of June.

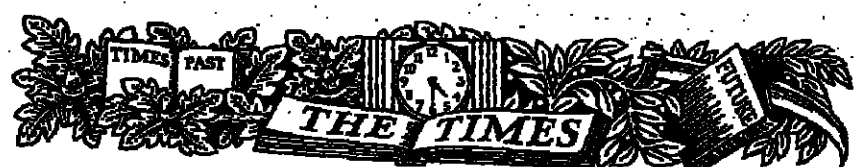
## Now for Who's Who

ONE result of the anonymity rule at *The Economist* is that few had heard of Bill Emmott until it was announced this week that he was to be the new editor.

Emmott, 36, the former business editor, joined the magazine from Oxford when he was 24, but has not once been given a by-line — a policy, he admits, which has occasionally irked him. But there is to be no change. "We can't introduce by-lines now. It's been the policy not to have them for 150 years, and nowadays, it makes us virtually unrecognisable," he says. "I prefer our lot to remain in prestigious anonymity."

● *Café cognac* is the traditional start to the day for many a French peasant. But the enterprising *Nice* bar owner currently offering a *Café Cool* to customers seems to be planning the start of something rather different. The foil-wrapped package that accompanies the coffee is not a chocolate or a mint, but a condom.





## TURN AGAIN, HOLLYWOOD

The fickle film industry will change — if it is pushed

Appalled by the fashion for gratuitous violence and sexual sadism in contemporary cinema, such stars as Anthony Hopkins, Clint Eastwood, and Richard Dreyfuss are voicing their fears in public. Their revulsion, shared by an increasing number of cinema-goers, has found a focus in Michael Medved's caustic book *Hollywood vs America*, which accuses the film business of waging war on civilised values. These are encouraging signs of an overdue cultural awakening.

Hollywood's cultural influence has rarely been matched by responsibility. In an age dominated by visual media of increasing sophistication, film feeds the popular subconscious with images of increasing savagery and desensitises the young to violence at a depressingly early age. A 1991 survey of Americans aged between 10 and 13 showed that twice as many had heard of Freddy Krueger, a grotesque serial killer in a series of violent horror films, as of Abraham Lincoln. The cost of this untrammelled creative licence is now being counted. President Clinton and John Major have both expressed concern about the brutalities which flicker routinely across the screen; opinion polls regularly affirm popular weariness with celluloid carnage.

Formal censorship would not be the right response. It is almost impossible to legislate for good taste and sound judgment without curtailing legitimate artistic endeavour. Instead, Hollywood must shift a few degrees on its moral axis, and those who exercise influence over film-making and distribution must use it to encourage some restraint.

The film industry has always adapted instinctively to shifts in the moral and political climate. Louis B. Mayer, who worshipped "good women, honourable men and saintly mothers", symbolised an era of moral conservatism with a taste for stately epics such as *Ben Hur* and *Mutiny on the Bounty*. The stern production code of 1930

dictated that "no picture shall be produced which will lower the moral standards of those who see it".

Yet in the years that followed, Hollywood became the playground of liberals such as Orson Welles and Melvyn and Helen Douglas. Unsettled by the rise of fascism and the social blight of the Depression, they produced politically ambitious and brilliant films such as *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Citizen Kane*. After the second world war, liberalism gave way to political intrigue and the black era of anti-communist inquisition. The Vietnam conflict heralded yet another cultural volte-face as film-stars such as Jane Fonda rallied to the peace movement. Many of the finest films of the last 20 years have documented America's inability to exorcise the ghosts of the Vietnam war.

The heartening lesson for those who seek a less degrading cinematic diet is that film-makers are amenable to change. The recent spate of commercially unsuccessful but ecologically friendly films partly reflects the fierce lobbying of the Environmental Media Association in Hollywood. Likewise, the growing power of the gay lobby in America has contributed to film-makers' current fascination with AIDS.

Others should not be afraid to apply similar pressure to banish the worst excesses of contemporary cinema. One American fast food chain has already made a public commitment to supporting common decency in its sponsorship of entertainment, and others may follow suit. Video stores and cinema chains should cater more explicitly for families by refusing to stock or show violent and sexually sadistic films. Worried consumers should boycott those that offend their standards. Creative restraint and public complaint are always the best guarantees of artistic decency; and a judicious mixture of the two could yet save tinseltown from itself.

## HEART OF DARKNESS

America and the UN must try again in Angola

Liberation and independence: proud aspirations 30 years ago, these words have become bitter symbols of exploitation, disease and war in much of Africa, nowhere more poignantly than in Angola. After 16 years of ruinous civil war in which perhaps half a million Angolans died, hope was reborn in 1991, when America brokered — and jointly guaranteed — a peace settlement with Russian backing. The United Nations arrived to oversee a general demobilisation and free elections, which were held last September.

To succeed, that political rescue operation depended on meticulously thorough implementation. Instead, the warring armies pretended to demobilise, the UN's peace-keepers pretended to be satisfied, and war resumed almost as soon as the ballots were counted last September. The consequence of a job half done is tragedy on an even greater scale than before. Jonas Savimbi's Unita refused to accept defeat and seized control of two-thirds of the country. MPLA forces began a counter-offensive in January. Both sides have committed atrocities. Both are overstretched militarily. Neither is capable of lasting victory; but they are all too evidently capable of reducing Angola's towns to rubble, its rich countryside to a wasteland, and its people to unspeakable misery.

Nearly two million Angolans, a fifth of its population, are again on the run from war. In just one battle, the two-month struggle for control of Angola's second city, Huambo, 10,000 died, 15,000 were wounded and perhaps 100,000 fled; three times as many are trapped there without water, electricity or food. Other provincial towns are under siege as cruel as any in Bosnia. The UN predicts that three million could be seriously short of food by the autumn.

The mediators have lost all control over the conflict. What is left of the UN observer force is, in the words of Margaret Anstee, the UN secretary-general's mediator, "increasingly irrelevant". The first round of peace talks broke down, the second had to be cancelled because the Unita delegation failed to turn up, and Dr Savimbi has now made the removal of Miss Anstee a precondition for more talks. The MPLA's leadership is more interested in persuading the international community to lift its arms embargo than in talking peace. The MPLA tells Angolans to prepare for destruction and casualties far worse than anything they suffered in the earlier war. Dr Savimbi summons his fighters back to the bush where, he boasts, "we have arms, ammunition, bombs and food".

The great powers who guaranteed the 1991 settlement are inevitably tempted to leave the UN to muddle on: no firm decisions seem likely at the imminent meeting of the UN Security Council. The UN is played out; America, the only power with the muscle to arbitrate, needs to resume the wearisome diplomatic task pursued through the 1980s by Chester Crocker. Washington should warn Dr Savimbi, who is now the main obstacle to peace, that it will recognise the dos Santos government unless Unita negotiates in good faith: simultaneously, it should exert pressure on Angola's neighbours to tighten the arms embargo. The outstanding election issue was the thirst of Angolan voters for peace. Its leaders are to that extent vulnerable — as they are to international isolation. Mediation was effective once. The odds are against an early breakthrough; but outside intervention and pressure could eventually be effective again.

## EYE ON CREATION

Hubble's mirror in space deserves to be fixed

The story of the Hubble telescope has so far been one of tantalising disappointment. Billed to look, like *Miranda*, into "the dark backward and abysm of time", the great seer has proved myopic. A 2.34-micron flaw in the telescope's mirror — no more than the amount a human hair grows in an hour — has produced pictures surrounded by a fuzzy halo. Now astronomers are planning to correct the defect; but the mission is, if not impossible, at least high-risk. The glorious prospect of witnessing Creation is still remote.

Yesterday the astronaut crew visited the British Aerospace plant in Bristol which made both the wings that power this European-American telescope and the equipment needed for the servicing operation. They have been practising in deep water tanks in America for their December mission, but success in this delicate surgery can by no means be guaranteed. One of the astronauts described the work as "like hanging upside down to service your car when wearing ski mittens".

If it is a success, the result would be a telescope virtually as powerful as the one astronomers originally dreamed of: the biggest advance in the study of the stars since Galileo. Because light travels at 186,000 miles per second, a ferociously strong telescope like the Hubble, which can scan the outer edges of the universe, should detect rays that started life 14 billion years ago, only a billion years after the Creation itself. It has to be mounted in space since the Earth's

atmosphere would obstruct the view. The combination of space and time travel conjures up the most romantic visions.

Few people would not sympathise with H.G. Wells, who wanted "to go ahead of Father Time with a scythe of my own". Most of us fantasise about going backwards or forwards in time, and about finding life on other planets. The Hubble telescope ought to be able to tell us not just about the Big Bang, but also about a possible Big Crunch, in which the world might finally end. And it should detect planets outside our solar system, a feat never achieved from Earth.

The flaw in the mirror has not been a complete disaster for the Hubble. The telescope has sent back useful pictures that suggest black holes. It has detected chemical "fossils" that might date from around the time the Milky Way was born. And it has produced images that could explain how some of the oldest stars in our galaxy have avoided collapsing into a black hole.

But the really exciting findings still elude us. Spoilsports in the US Congress, including one Senator Al Gore back in 1990, still question whether NASA deserves the money it gets for such pure space research. Like the joy derived from a great piece of music or art, the exhilarating possibility of being able to explain the origins of life cannot be valued in dollars. NASA is right to spend \$550 million to try to mend the troubled telescope. A milliard of secrets may be unlocked. Or one big truth may be told.

## A Chancellor who deserves to stay

From Sir Michael Grylls, MP for Surrey North West (Conservative)

Sir, Your Political Editor, Peter Riddell, was correct when he wrote ("Could Lamont win through?", March 8) that "Mr Lamont has in many ways been an innovative Chancellor".

When the quite exceptional turbulence hit the European money markets last summer, it soon became clear that sterling had to leave the ERM. Mr Lamont did the right thing for the country, recognising the reality of the market situation and pulling sterling out on September 16.

For the Chancellor's detractors to say he had no choice is nonsense: like the Irish and the Spanish, he could have devalued "within" the ERM (and observers should note that unlike British interest rates, theirs have hardly fallen since). There has been wide-spread chaos in Europe's money markets recently but no ministerial resignations have occurred in other countries: why here?

When Mr Lamont became Chancellor, inflation had climbed to 11 per cent and Britain had just entered its recession. Two years later, inflation is just 1.7 per cent and Britain is poised to grow again, by twice the European Community average this year. Britain today has inflation below the average of either the EC or the G7.

Mr Lamont is a tax reformer. He has kept the Tory party's commitment to low taxes. His 1992 Budget set the scene for the general election campaign. By introducing a new 20p rate of income tax, he cut taxes for everyone and left four million lower earners with tax at 20p in the pound.

The Chancellor cut corporation tax in his first Budget and business rates in his second. As a result, our corporation tax is the lowest for any country in either the G7 or the EC. Crucially, for the good of Britain's smaller businesses, he abolished inheritance tax on unquoted companies. This reform will enable family firms to survive from one generation to another.

The Autumn Statement last year could not have been delivered against a more difficult background. After leaving the ERM, Mr Lamont faced the seemingly impossible task of having to raise the morale of both Conservative backbenchers and British business.

Seldom has an Autumn Statement been greeted with such unanimous acclaim from the CBI and Conservative MPs.

Mr Lamont has reformed the control of public spending, which is now set inside fixed ceilings for three years. Before last year, the government decided what it wanted to spend the money on first and then looked at what it could afford. The new approach is top-down — you set the total first and then you decide what your priorities are and how the money should be carved up.

This year, for the first time, we will have a combined Budget and spending round in December. It must make sense to discuss these two sides of the "national balance sheet" together, rather than six months apart.

Obviously it may be said, but it took this Chancellor actually to do it.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL GRYLLS,  
House of Commons.  
March 9.

Business letters, page 29

## Organ donors

From Mrs E. Jenkins

Sir, I think patients' wishes about donation of organs should be included on the health service central register.

My husband and I completed donor cards several years ago. My husband died suddenly last year and it was not until a month after his death that I found the donor card in his wallet.

In my stunned grief I had forgotten all about it.

Yours sincerely,  
E. JENKINS,  
22 Bellamy Close,  
Ickenham, Middlesex.  
March 2.

## Hazards on the slopes

From Lieutenant Colonel Monty Flash

Sir, I was saddened to read (Travel News, March 4) details of snow-board courses. Being in my 80th year I tend to ski cautiously anyway, but skiing in La Plagne recently, there were many moments of apprehension when snow-boarders, who seem to delight in coming as close as possible, crashed alongside.

This is in marked contrast to skiing in Colorado, where in many resorts ski-boarding is now banned. The young must have their fun, but is it too much to ask that ski-boarding should be restricted to certain slopes? Then traditional skiers could avoid being pestered by these fiendish machines.

Yours etc.  
MONTY FLASH,  
Pembrey, North Road,  
Bath, Avon.  
March 4.

Sports letters, page 43

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

### China and the future of Hong Kong

From Professor Harry G. Gelber

Sir, The position of the governor of Hong Kong, Mr Chris Patten, deserves wide support (leading article, March 4; letter, March 8). It is not acceptable that, by way of edict from Peking, the people of Hong Kong should be denied a stronger voice in determining their future.

Public discussion in Britain of these complex matters seems to have revolved around three issues: overall relations between London and Peking, the economic welfare of Hong Kong, and planning for a smooth handover in 1997. These do not, however, exhaust the list of Britain's obligations.

London must also keep in mind the principles of democracy and human rights which Britain professes to observe, in support of which several thousand service personnel are now in ex-Yugoslavia. There is Britain's standing in the world and particularly in the US, whose new president may be somewhat less conciliatory to Peking than his predecessor. And there is the balance of power around China's periphery, in which Britain also has a role to play.

It is not necessary for Peking to think that it can unilaterally assert wishes in Hong Kong, the South China Sea, the Senkoku Islands and elsewhere, while the outside world will simply comply. Nor is it necessary for China's neighbours, with whom Britain also has relations to cultivate, to conclude that they are on their own in dealing with Peking.

Various practical strategies are available. One of the most obvious would be an altogether more energetic attempt by British authorities to make emigration from Hong Kong possible for those of its inhabitants, even ones who are not rich, who might wish to leave now or later.

Napoleon may or may not have said: "Let China sleep: when she wakes, the world will tremble." The trouble is that trembling doesn't help.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRY G. GELBER,  
The Center for International Affairs,  
Harvard University,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

### Safety at royal palaces defended

From Mr Stephen Bond and others

Sir, Your coverage (reports, March 8, 9, 10) of fire safety at the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace is, in our view, unfair.

Historic Royal Palaces, the government executive agency responsible for managing both these buildings, treats with the utmost importance its responsibilities for the safety and security of visitors and staff. In exercising its responsibilities for the prevention, detection and fighting of fires at its several sites, it draws upon a range of methods and approaches, considering each case on its individual merits and adopting the most effective and most appropriate solutions.

Such decisions are taken with the benefit of advice from specialists. The fire protection arrangements at Hampton Court are based upon the implementation of the Garlick report, produced after the 1986 fire. Major improvements in fire safety have also been made at the Tower since that time.

Effective fire safety can only be achieved by a balance between management procedures and physical measures. At both Hampton Court and the Tower smoke-detection systems in key areas are complemented by frequent comprehensive security patrols.

Each palace has a control room that monitors all the alarms and detectors, and co-ordinates the patrols 24 hours a day. Fire safety officers on both sites advise on equipment, train staff and hold regular liaison and briefing meetings with the local fire services. Emergency evacuation is practised on a regular basis — the most recent comprehensive exercise being at Hampton Court in December 1992.

Fire safety arrangements require regular updating: legislation changes, standards develop and technology is improving constantly. To ensure that

From Lord Willoughby de Broke

Sir, Lord Shawcross is absolutely correct to state in his letter (March 8) that "it is not to be thought that the Hong Kong Legislative Council can stand as an obstacle over-riding the resumption of direct negotiation between Britain and China".

However, it may very properly be thought that any decision arrived at should be acceptable to the Legislative Council (LegCo) and to the people of Hong Kong, whose future is too precious to be treated as a mere negotiable commodity between the two sovereign powers.

LegCo is anxious for these talks to resume; the only obstacle lies in the reluctance of the Chinese government to come to the negotiating table.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE,  
Ditchford Farm,  
Moreton-in-Marsh,  
Gloucestershire.  
March 8.

From Mr S. E. Ingram

Sir, China has seen the disastrous results of the introduction of "democracy" in the old USSR and its satellites.

While moving to a full market economy, it is determined to avoid the same fate by retaining its authoritarian regime, following the passing of the old communist dictatorship and its cultural revolution. The Tiananmen Square incident clearly demonstrated such resolve.

The present state of even the older democracies of the West must underline the wisdom of the Chinese government in hesitating to allow any democracy to exist in its territory after 1997.

In any event, the Old China Hands at the Foreign Office will doubtless arrange a deal with Peking and save Chris Patten's face as far as they can. But on a realistic view, China holds the whip hand.

Yours faithfully,  
S. E. INGRAM,  
2 Little Woodley Farm,  
Romsey, Hampshire.  
March 5.

### Birt commitment to the BBC

From Mr Ian McNyre

Sir, "It is true I had a child by the footman, but it was only a small one." Mr John Birt's updating of the "housemaid's baby's defence" (letter, March 9) adds an entertaining dimension to the saga of his contractual arrangements with the BBC but is not to the point.

He writes that his commitment and dedication to the BBC are total. Excellent. A more important question is how well he understands what he is professing commitment to. He has, as he quaintly put it, been "supplying his services" to the BBC for the past six years. It was only last week that he acknowledged the self-evident proposition that he ought, like John Reith and William Haley and Ian Jacob before him, to be a member of the Corporation's staff.

There is no evidence that Mr Birt is a slow learner. There is a great deal of evidence that even very senior boys at the BBC no longer find themselves exposed to the ethos of public service broadcasting. Responsibility for that rests on the chairman and board of governors. It was they who sanctioned Mr Birt's eccentric arrangements in the first place — just as they allowed his predecessor to talk pseudo-commercial nonsense about something called "BBC plc".

When Lord Reith died, more than 30 years after he ceased to be director-general, you published a memorable leader (June 17, 1971) about his continuing influence on the national instrument of broadcasting. "The corporate personality of the BBC," you wrote, "will continue to get a twitch on the thread from that angular Scots engineer who felt himself to be elected by Providence to do something great in the world".

The thread seems to have gone a bit limp.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN MCINTYRE,  
(Controller, Radio 3, 1978-87),  
Spylaw House, Newlands Avenue,  
Radlett, Hertfordshire.  
March 9.

From Mr Christopher Horne

Sir, If the net benefit to the Birt household in the year ended August 31, 1991, from tax-saving arrangements was only £810 I suggest a change of accountant.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER HORNE  
(Chartered accountant),  
PO Box 296,  
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.  
March 9.

### Wafts from the past

From Mrs Annabel Geddes

Sir, I found it most telling in Matthew Parris's clever and sentient article about times remembered (March 8) that amongst his findings in the trunk of yesteryear was the near-empty bottle of Pimm's, the after-dinner drink of his youth. It brought it all back to him.

Only the other day, my eyes immediately filled with tears in Selfridge's of all places. I smelled the elusive Mitsouko (Guerlain), as I passed through the perfume department. My youth, my hopeful young marriage, my early widowhood, swam in my old eyes.

Surely our sense of smell is truly underestimated?

Yours faithfully,  
ANNABEL GEDDES,  
59c Harcourt Terrace, SW10.  
March 9.

### Clear as mud

From Mr Gareth H. Davies

Sir, My bank has just sent me an explanation of its latest system of charges. One paragraph reads as follows:

We will not charge the £19 and £23 fee if your account had an average cleared credit balance of at least £500 during the period we were charging for. If you only pay a charge as a result of a charge you paid in the previous charging period, we will refund this second charge if you ask.

The document bears the Crystal Mark, with the explanation that it displays a "clearly approved by Plain English Campaign".

Yours faithfully,  
GARETH DAVIES,  
36 Babylon Way, Ratton,  
Eastbourne, East Sussex.

### Too hot to handle

From Miss Wendy R. Clements

Sir, Cookery writers are often criticised for requiring ingredients which are not easily obtained.

Frances Bissell has surely now exceeded all previous demands. I quote from the recipe on February 27 for oven-baked macaroni with aubergine: "Spread a little of the tomato sauce on the bottom of an ovenproof dish".

Yours faithfully,  
WENDY R. CLEMENTS,  
Brewerwood House,  
Vicage Street,  
Colyton, Devon.  
March 1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.







**SIR ANDREW  
GILCHRIST**

Chelye valley and educated at Edinburgh Academy and Exeter College, Oxford, where he took a third class degree in history.

In 1933 he entered the colonial service as a student interpreter in what was then called Siam. His three years in Bangkok were followed by a period at the Paris consulate, then a year at Marseilles, after which he returned as second secretary to Bangkok.

Gilchrist was there when Japan entered the war in 1941 and was interned for eight months before being repatriated.

His wife, Freda, whom he married in 1946, died six years ago and he is survived by two sons and a daughter.

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## GREY SQUIRREL

There was no need for regret about any possibility of exterminating the grey squirrel: it was not a native species and it did hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of damage in the country's woodlands, where it stripped bark from growing trees, mainly hardwoods. Trees that were severely stripped were killed. Others became valueless as timber trees.

### A DELICACY

Sir Richard Cottrell said it was not an exaggeration to assert that if the numbers of grey squirrels continued to multiply at the present rate it would become impossible to grow commercial crops of beech, sycamore, and oak. The animal also attacked birch and ash and had shown a liking for larch. There was no reason to suppose that other conifers would remain immune if the pest spread farther into areas where softwoods were predominant.

Everything considered, he could find only two qualities that could be quoted in recommendation of the pest. It was inquisitive and the biggest of fools when confronted by a trap, and also it had some merit as food.

In America numbers were kept within limits because the animal was regarded as game and its carcass as a delicacy. Recipes described it as better than rabbit and as good as chicken.









FOCUS 40-42

Distribution:  
Britain shows  
Europe how



ARTS 35-37

Quentin Crisp  
plays Elizabeth I  
in a bold new film



SPORT 43-48

Dexter keeps  
his job as  
England chairman

BOOKS:  
ANYONE FOR  
TENNYSON?  
Pages 38, 39

# THE TIMES

2

THURSDAY MARCH 11 1993

BUSINESS  
TODAY

PROFITS

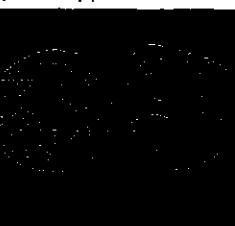


GKN and T&N,  
leading car component  
makers, report profits  
up and signs of  
recovery at home and  
in America  
Page 27, Times 29

PROVISIONS

Standard Chartered  
raises its provisions for  
India as a result of its  
unexpected losses in  
the Bombay stock  
market scandal  
Page 27, Times 29

PROSPECTS



Cadbury Schweppes  
reports a good start to  
1993 and gains ahead.  
Its optimism is seen as  
a good omen for the  
economy  
Page 26, Times 29

THE POUND

US \$ 1.4342 (+0.015)  
German mark 2.3846 (+0.0094)  
Exchange index 77.2 (-0.1)  
Bank of England official close  
(4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2855.7 (+8.5)  
Dow Jones 3459.97 (+12.15)  
Nikkei Ave 17558.63 (+10.33)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%  
3-month Interbank 5 1/8%  
US Federal Funds 2 1/8%  
3-month Treas Bills 2.97-2.98%  
Long Bond 6.73%

CURRENCIES

New York London  
£/\$ 1.4352  
\$/£ 0.6969  
\$DM 1.8844  
DM/\$ 0.5307  
\$/¥ 1.5345  
¥/\$ 0.6524  
\$/Fr 5.6510  
Fr/\$ 0.1770  
\$/Yen 117.93  
Yen/\$ 0.0085  
£/SDR 1.0480  
SDR/£ 0.9541  
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing (\$)  
AM 326.50 PM 326.10  
Close 326.20-326.60  
New York  
Comex 325.75-326.25

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 137.9 January (1.7%)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## Taurus runs into fresh problems

By JON ASHWORTH

THE London Stock Exchange council will be told today that Taurus, the controversial paperless settlement system that has run up £100 million in development costs so far, cannot be salvaged in its present form.

The system could not be expected to go fully live before autumn 1995 - 18 months past the most pessimistic previous schedule. Difficulties with the benefits system, including ways of dealing with rights issues and open offers, have led practitioners to believe that Taurus is unwieldy.

The Stock Exchange refused to comment, but confirmed that the outcome of an "urgent" review of Taurus will be considered at today's monthly council meeting. The review was commissioned soon after testing began on January 18. The tests are believed to have shown that key goals could not be achieved under the present timetable.

Peter Rawlins, the exchange's chief executive, will tell the board that the Taurus project is a non-starter in its present form. An announcement is expected this afternoon. Mr Rawlins has been a strong supporter of Taurus and any further delay will embarrass the Stock Exchange management.

One market source said yesterday: "The project has lost the support of virtually everybody." Providing a system for recording share

allocations in rights issues has been one of the more difficult problems facing Taurus's designers. No convertibles could be handled satisfactorily by Taurus in its present form.

Such difficulties could be ironed out but it would take until autumn 1995 to do so. The delay is likely to prove unacceptable to those involved in the project. Under the original plan, the first securities were due to be introduced to Taurus in May 1992. A simplified version of Taurus could have been brought in by this spring, but few companies would favour joining a restricted system.

Plans to create a system for private investors are likely to be abandoned in favour of an institutions-only network using the existing Stock Exchange electronic network. Share registers and the legal framework would be left unchanged in favour of a system that would permit institutions to match movement of stock and movement of money, using a book entry transfer system aligned with payments.

Such systems have been commonplace in America and in the Eurobond markets for nearly 20 years. The Taurus technology could be modified to fit such a framework. Paperless share trading systems have been working well

since the mid eighties in several continental centres. These were, however, developed to dematerialise bearer stocks and are therefore much simpler than Taurus. They are unlikely to be of much use in Britain, where shareholdings are registered with companies. Cancellation will horrify high street banks and companies such as British Gas and BT which have spent millions of pounds developing systems in tandem with Taurus.

Taurus was intended to replace the existing paper-based system of share registration and transfer with a fully electronic system, complementing the shift to screen-based trading heralded by Big Bang. Share certificates and stock transfer forms would disappear in favour of a computer network. Shares would be held in computer-based accounts with statements sent to shareholders recording their transactions.

The travails of Taurus will save the Chancellor's valuable revenue from the 0.5 per cent stamp duty on share transactions, which he had promised to cancel when Taurus started full operation. The pledge to abolish stamp duty is unlikely to apply to any more restricted system that does not cover share dealings by private investors.

## Vickers launches £60.5m cash call as losses mount

By ROSS TIEHAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

VICKERS has launched a £60.5 million rights issue to restore the balance sheet damage caused by two years of heavy losses at its Rolls-Royce cars subsidiary.

The collapse in demand for luxury goods has now extended to Vickers' Riva speedboat business, contributing to a group pre-tax loss of £25.9 million in the year to end-December. This compares with a £12.4 million loss last time. A 1p final dividend makes 1.5p, down from 6p in 1991.

However, Sir Colin Chandler, the chief executive, said he was confident that an energetic drive to cut costs, combined with maintained



Sir Colin confident

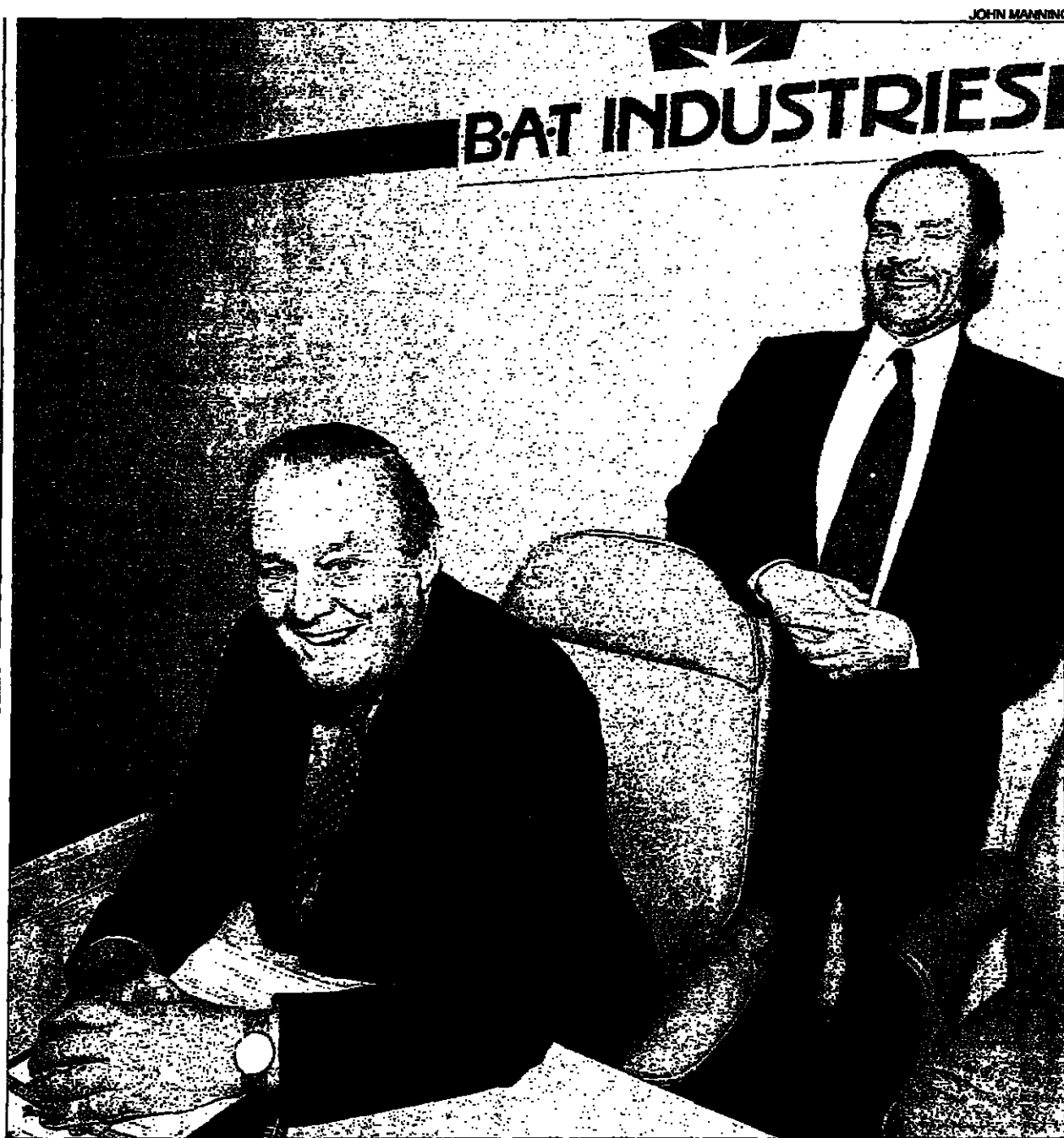
research and investment spending of £65 million and a strong order book in the defence business had put Vickers in a good position to exploit any upturn.

Under terms of the rights

issue, announced alongside annual figures yesterday, shareholders are being offered one new share at 95p for every four held. A heavier cash call had been expected and the subsequent 6p rise in Vickers shares to 124p, was attributed to relief among investors.

Proceeds of the offer, underwritten by Lazard Brothers, will be used to cut borrowings. Vickers entered the recession three years ago with £11.5 million of spare cash. By the end of last year, a combination of heavy provisions and losses had pushed the debt to £100 million, or 48 per cent of shareholders' funds. The rights cash will cut gearing to 15 per cent.

Sales by Vickers' main divi-



Smiles all round: Sir Patrick Sheehy, left, and David Alvey, finance director, announcing a bigger payout yesterday

## Tobacco sends BAT soaring

By COLIN CAMPBELL

BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services group, marked No Smoking Day with a 68 per cent rise in 1992 pre-tax profits to £1.645 billion. It said tobacco operations had made a record trading profit of £1.314 billion, while trading profits from continuing financial services had recovered from £230 million to £598 million.

Sir Patrick Sheehy, chairman, said the policy was to ensure that dividend growth beat inflation. The total 1992 payout rises by 11 per cent to 37.2p. The shares rose by 18p to 955p. A one-for-one capitalisation issue is planned.

BAT's profits were helped by an improvement at Eagle Star, where losses were trimmed from £394.3 million to £71.4 million, and by another "fine performance" by Farmers Insurance, in America, where trading profit rose 14 per cent to £408 million.

Group profits would have been £29 million higher but for the adoption of a new method of accounting for Brazil. BAT's share of the world tobacco market rose to 10.9

per cent. The group is negotiating further tobacco links in eastern Europe, in the wake of last year's deal in Hungary. Following recent transactions in the Ukraine and Russia, letters of intent with other countries of the former Soviet Union have been signed. Viet-

nam and Cambodia are also in BAT's sights, Sir Patrick said.

The group remains keen to expand its financial services operations. Given a choice for a strategic British acquisition, one that gave an advance corporation tax advantage

would be preferred. BAT said it was relaxed about year-end gearing of 54.6 per cent. The tax charge fell from 56.5 to 41.5 per cent, reflecting improved profitability in Britain.

Times, page 29

## Budget exclusive: read all about it

I have acquired some inside information - two leaks about next Tuesday's Budget. First, I believe there will be a special stimulus for construction. Second, the balancing of fiscal and monetary policy in the Budget package will give a tremendous boost to business confidence, to say nothing of Conservative party morale. How do I know this, when Norman Lamont and his officials have spent the past two months in Budget purdah, not saying a word to anyone except a privileged handful of big-time speculators in sterling and gilts? Let me explain.

The construction industry will gain from a huge programme of public transport investment and in particular, an early start on the Jubilee Line extension into London's Docklands. I can predict this with certainty for one simple reason. The government has announced that it would start building the Jubilee Line in every Budget and Autumn Statement since November 1989. It has won ecstatic applause from the media and its backers every time. To be absolutely precise, the Jubilee Line per se has been promised in each of the last four Autumn Statements. In the three subsequent Budgets, the Chancellor

has reaffirmed his commitment to the ambitious transport plans he had announced four months before. Of course, the Jubilee extension has still not been started, and probably never will be. But that in itself has been a mighty boon to the construction industry and the wider economy, to say nothing of Mr Lamont and his predecessor, John Major, who can add to his many other accomplishments as Chancellor the discovery of political gold in the imaginary tunnels under Canary Wharf. As long as the Docklands' virgin soil remains undisturbed, Chancellors will continue winning political plaudits, saving hard-pressed builders and inspiring confidence in the economy at large, without spending a penny of the Treasury's overdraft. In fact, as the Labour party pointed out in an analysis published two weeks ago, none of the big public investments announced with great fanfare in the last Autumn Statement is likely to start in the foreseeable future; public investment generally is actually being



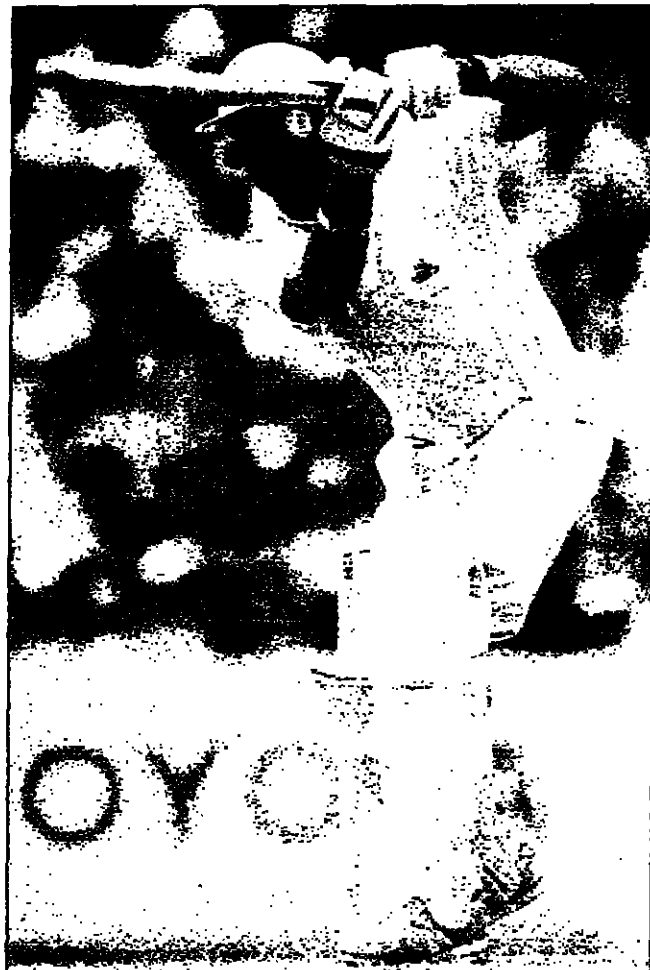
ANATOLE KALETSKY

a compliment, not an indictment. As the Treasury's debt has mounted, the cost-benefit analysis of making unfilled announcements has become steadily more attractive. A Budget promise to start the Jubilee Line is therefore a dead cert.

But what about the Chancellor's broader Budget judgment? I have the privilege to reveal that Mr Lamont's package of monetary and fiscal policies will be immediately hailed as "canary", "ingenious", "politically astute" and perhaps even "brilliant". It will give business confidence a much-needed tonic and will ensure an economic recovery that is sustainable, non-inflationary and firmly based. These words and phrases will not only be used by the Chancellor's cheering backbench supporters, but also by business lobbies, City analysts and the CBI. Again, I

can predict all this by reading the runes of history and psychology. All Tory budgets are hailed initially as brilliant by business leaders and most set off a brief stock market rally. This is particularly true in a recession, when businessmen are even more desperate than politicians to talk up confidence among their customers. Before a Budget, business lobbyists have a countervailing incentive to stress the economy's weakness in the hope of moving the Treasury to mercy; after the Budget they have nothing left to gain by complaining. Stock markets, too, usually rise in the hour of trading after a recession Budget, since no Chancellor ever predicts that his measures will make a recession worse.

It is small wonder, then, that Norman Lamont will be smiling confidently on Tuesday as he poses for his pre-Budget photos with Gladstone's famous box. By the time he sits down in the House of Commons on Tuesday, the most abused Chancellor in British history will again be a popular and respected man. But for how long? I can only give an indirect answer. Pay no attention to Mr Lamont's promises; judge him by what he does.



WHITTINGDALE  
GILT-EDGED EXPERTS

Whittingdale Unit Trust Management Limited is a Member of IMRO and LAUTRO. Whittingdale Limited is a Member of IMRO.



# Cadbury profits boost is sweet augury for 1993

By GEORGE SIVELL  
CITY EDITOR

CADBURY Schweppes, the drinks and confectionery group, said an "excellent Christmas gave a strong finish to last year". Sir Graham Day, the chairman, described the start to 1993 as "very good" and voiced confidence that the company "will make significant progress in the year".

Food analysts said the optimistic statement boded well for the economy and Cadbury shares rose 13p to 507p. Pre-tax profits in the 53 weeks to January 2 rose from £314.7 million to £332.7 million, £5 million more than anyone had expected.

The dividend for the year rises 5.6 per cent to 13.2p, out of earnings down from 27.51p to 26.81p. The board said the dividend rise reflected "the momentum of the business and the board's confidence in the outlook".

Operating profit rose from £371.1 million to £384.6 million, including £14.7 million from acquisitions. Interest charges fell from £57 million to £50.6 million. The retained profit, however, fell from £104.7 million to £97.6 million. Cadbury said that before

■ Cadbury's marketing costs rose by more than 13 per cent to £388 million as the company stepped up efforts to counter the impact of recession in its major markets

taking confectionery restructuring costs and the effect of adverse exchange rates, underlying earnings grew. Marketing costs grew by 13.1 per cent, to £388 million.

Coca-Cola and Schweppes beverages increased volume in Britain by 1 per cent, the company said, but productivity gains raised trading profit by 19 per cent. Schweppes Spain suffered a £19 million fall in trading profits because of the weather, and economic and marketing difficulties; management changes are expected to result in improvement this year.

Sir Graham said: "Our 1992 results are a creditable performance in a year when most of the major markets in which we operate were in recession. Actions were taken to make the business even more competitive, for which costs were incurred."

"We have derived considerable benefit from the international spread of our business.

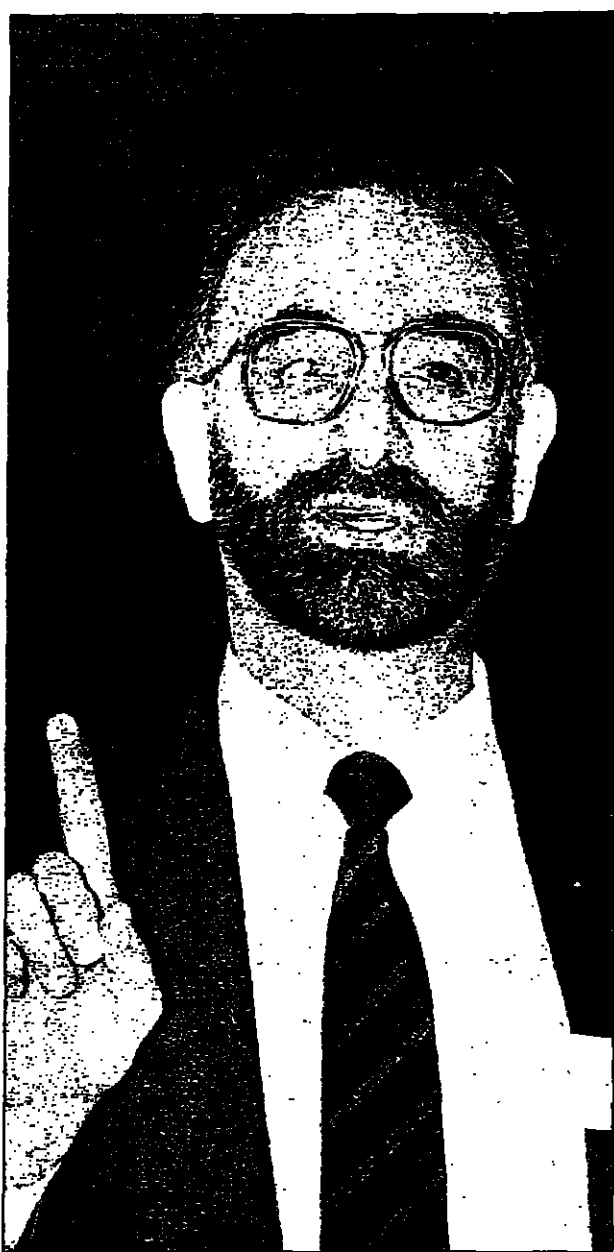
Operating in over 170 markets, we have been able to withstand the negative effects of fluctuations in economic and market conditions.

"We achieved excellent results in all our UK businesses. In the US, strong competitive performance helped deliver an outstanding profit increase and in Australia the confectionery business was very strong."

Economic conditions in Spain were difficult, he said, and the beverages market in Australia had produced disappointing results. Management action had been taken and the company expected to see better results from those areas in 1993.

Cadbury's balance sheet strengthened during the year, with the percentage of debt to shareholders' funds falling from 40 per cent to 36.9 per cent. Shareholders' funds rose by £209.2 million.

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Significant progress expected: Sir Graham Day

## Willis Corroon at £42m

By SARAH BAGNALL  
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LOW premium rates in America, reduced underwriting capacity in the London market and the need to bolster reserves depressed profits at Willis Corroon, Britain's largest insurance broker.

Willis reported a pre-tax profit for the year to end-December of £42.5 million, compared with £41.1 million. But the adoption of accounting standard FRS3 hid a sharp fall in underlying profits as a £28.6 million charge for future claims costs was restated above the line in the 1991 figures. The City had been expecting profits of £60 million.

Willis maintained its 13.2p dividend for 1992 but to conserve cash is halving its quarterly dividend to 1.65p, which "in the absence of unforeseen circumstances" will make a total for 1993 of 6.6p. Roger Elliott, chairman, and Richard Miller, chief executive, said in a joint statement.

Earnings per share fell from 13.3p to 6.4p reflecting a £15.8 million tax charge, compared with a £13.4 million credit last year. Willis is dipping into reserves to fund £28 million of the £54.5 million 1992 dividend payout. The quarterly cut reflected the drain on reserves of the deterioration in discontinued UK underwriting operations. Mr Elliott and Mr Miller said.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Whitbread puts cost of cutting ties at £80m

WHITBREAD said the cost of complying with legislation requiring it to break beer supply ties with some of its public houses cost the company £80 million, net of tax benefits. Peter Jarvis, group chief executive, told the Commons agriculture select committee the costs of complying with the Beer Orders "hardly justify the benefits". He said: "The costs have been massive not just in terms of pounds, shillings and pence but in terms of management time."

Disruption to Whitbread's tenanted trade was the "biggest downside" to the Beer Orders, although tenants now have better protection under the Landlord and Tenants Act. "There is a huge amount of competition in our industry between licensed premises which has been accelerated but which the Monopolies Commission failed to recognise," he said. The Beer Orders obliged brewers to dispose of, or free from supply ties, half the number of public houses they held over 2,000 by November last year. The big brewers sold off or freed about 11,000 public houses. Whitbread net sales through tenanted houses in 1992 were about 10 per cent above 1991 levels because of sales of food, wine and soft drinks.

### Asda returns to index

ASDA, the supermarket group, returned to the FT-SE 100 index yesterday after the index committee held its quarterly review. WH Smith A shares dropped out of the index. Barrat, Owners Abroad, TT Group, Dansk, FR Group and Henderson Administration joined the new FT-SE mid 250 index, which is now widely tracked by fund managers. Etam, Amstrad, Sherwood Group, Hewden-Stuart, Amec and Hartstone dropped out. Stock market, page 28

### Abbey eurobond issue

ABBEY National, the UK financial services group, has launched a £650 million eurobond issue to fund its general mortgage business in a "very cost-effective" way. The issue size was increased from £500 million because strong investor demand from overseas meant the UK demand could not be met. The bond, which has a ten-year maturity and pays an annual coupon of 8 per cent, is thought to be the second-largest sterling eurobond issue launched.

### Manweb gas challenge

MANWEB has stepped up its assault on the gas market with a contract to purchase another £50 million of gas for resale over the next three-and-a-half years and a pledge to enter the household gas market if it is opened to competition. Additional fuel supplies will be provided by Alliance Gas, a joint venture between BP, Statoil and Norsk Hydro. Alliance Gas has called on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to open up household supply to competition.

### Giordano joins Lucas

RICHARD Giordano, right, former head of BOC Group, is one of three new non-executive directors at Lucas Industries, one of the stock market's favourite bid candidates. His first job is to find a new chief executive, prompting speculation that Mr Giordano may himself become the next chairman. The other new directors, appointed in an apparent attempt to shore up the company's defences against any potential predator, are Sir Alastair Morton, the Eurotunnel chief executive, and Paul Bosonnet, deputy chairman of BT.



### Rosebys advances

A SHARP drop in interest payments lifted pre-tax profits by 8 per cent to £2.34 million at Rosebys, the specialist retailer of household textiles, curtains and accessories which was floated last year. Turnover advanced 5 per cent to £45 million. A final dividend of 3p, which covers the ten months since flotation, joins the 0.9p pro-rata dividend paid at the interim stage, making a total of 3.9p and an annualised total of 4.35p. Earnings per share fell from 8.9p to 7.9p.

### Airline chief charged

THE deputy chairman of Australia's Compass Airlines has been charged with making false statements to the company's board, the Australian Securities Commission (ASC) said yesterday. Douglas Reid, who will appear before a magistrate today, was arrested at his home in Melbourne on Tuesday. The arrest followed an investigation by the ASC which began when the airline went into voluntary receivership last week after only seven months in operation.

### National Power deal

NATIONAL Power and Jaiprakash Industries of India have signed an agreement to set up power plants in India, with a 12 billion rupee (£264 million) project as the first venture. National Power said the agreement was the first step towards a joint venture company. The first project will be to set up a 300 mw coal-fired power plant in the southern state of Karnataka, which will be working by 1997. A third partner for the joint venture will be sought.

### Hiram Walker expands

HIRAM Walker, the wines and spirits subsidiary of Allied-Lyons, has acquired stakes in Venezuela's top rum company and a Chilean drinks distributor for an undisclosed sum. In Venezuela, Hiram Walker has bought a 20 per cent stake in Compania Anonima Ron Santa Teresa, which has annual sales of 1.8 million cases, while in Chile it has acquired a 20 per cent stake in Distribuidora Errazuriz, which already deals with some of its brands.

## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

EVEREST FOODS (Int)  
Pre-tax £1.18m (£1.78m)  
EPS: 3.15p (5.82p)  
Div: 1.2p (1.1p)

REFLEX INVESTMENTS  
Pre-tax Loss: £121.86m  
EPS: 10.81p (13.52p)  
Div: None

GRAHAMS RINTOUL (Fin)  
Pre-tax £1.25 (£1.14)  
EPS: 2.22p (1.55p)  
Div: 0.25p (0.25p)

JOHN HAGGAS (Int)  
Pre-tax £981,000  
EPS: 3.0p (2.9p)  
Div: 1p (1p)

A & J MUCKLOW (Int)  
Pre-tax £4.82m (£5.34m)  
EPS: 3.26p (3.81p)  
Div: 2.96p (2.82p)

Turnover fell to £16.2m (£17.9m). The company remains cautious about the trading environment until stronger indications of recovery.

Results are for eight-month period, compared with previous 12 months. All figures are in Irish currency. Last time's loss was £22.44m.

The net asset value stood at 113.9p (123.3p). Gross revenue climbed to £1.48m (£1.39m). Company said 1993 could see sustained recovery.

Last time's profit was £911,000. Turnover rose to £17.6m (£16.4m). The company expects full-year profits to be similar to last year.

The net asset value stood at 156p (159p). Rental income climbed to £7.85m (£7.3m). Gearing rose to 30 per cent (21 per cent).

# BAT INDUSTRIES

Pre-tax profit increased 68%  
to £1,645 million

Preliminary results for the year  
to 31 December 1992

REVENUE	£22,093m	+7%
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£1,645m	+68%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	58.7p	+137%
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	37.2p	+11%

- Pre-tax profit would have been £29 million higher had the Group not adopted a new method of accounting for its Brazilian operations.
- Record tobacco trading profit of £1,314 million, up by 24 per cent, reflecting good results from all major operations.
- Financial services trading profit recovered from £230 million to £598 million from continuing operations, with another outstanding performance from Farmers in the USA.
- Shareholders will be asked to approve a 1 for 1 bonus issue at the Annual General Meeting on 18 May.
- "The 11 per cent increase maintains the Board's commitment to dividend growth significantly in excess of the rate of inflation, a major component in our strategic objective of delivering superior total returns to shareholders."

Sir Patrick Sheehy, Chairman



# Car parts makers braced for slide in European sales

BY MARTIN WALLER  
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TWO of Britain's biggest car component makers heralded some recovery in their markets in Britain and America, but gave warning of a downturn in continental Europe as the German economy plunged into recession.

Both GKN and T&N saw the benefit of earlier rationalisation measures in their 1992 figures though there was no upturn in demand for their products.

GKN's pre-tax profits rose by 34 per cent to £127.2 million; a net cash inflow of £50.7 million; reduced debt to £153 million, from £175 million at the end of 1991. The debt figure would have been £28 million lower still but for the fall in sterling's value.

Sir David Lees, the chairman and chief executive, who also chairs the influential economics committee at the Confederation of British Industry, said market conditions should improve in the UK and North America, but were likely to worsen in continental Europe. Much depended on how the German economy developed.

GKN forecasts that American car production will rise this year by more than a tenth, against a fall of 5 or 6 per cent in Europe as a whole. By contrast, Britain alone should see production up by more than 6 per cent, Sir David said.

■ Devaluation of the pound has given a boost to exports but the outlook in Europe is not promising, with Germany remaining a difficult market for at least two years

he did not expect the recession in Germany to lift before 1994 at the earliest.

A final dividend of 12.5p makes a total maintained at 20.5p. Unlike 1991's payment, it is almost covered by earnings.

GKN can expect to hear any time from next month whether it has won a contract from Kuwait, worth anything up to £800 million, for its Warrior and Piranha armoured fighting vehicles. Sir David said that in a recent test, the vehicles had outperformed their main American rival, and he

was "very hopeful". A contract would provide work for GKN's defence division through the 1990s.

T&N is also holding its dividend for the year, at 10.85p, with a final payment of 7.25p. Almost half the money will have to come from reserves. Colin Hope, the chairman and chief executive, said the company expected shareholders to take a long-term view.

The group reported a 56 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in 1992, to £63 million. Mr Hope said that in Britain, in January and February, T&N had seen a "surge" in exports, on the back of the lower pound.

He added that only in the US was there real evidence of recovery, though caution was needed. Britain could expect to see the benefits of sterling's devaluation in 1993, but no real help was likely from an upturn in domestic consumer demand. On the Continent, the outlook for 1993 was much worse, especially in Germany, where the market was likely to remain difficult for two years.

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Lees: Germany the key



Ringier endorsement: Michael Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury, ringing the bell at LIFFE, the international financial futures exchange, to

start trading in a new Spanish government bond contract. Mr Portillo said the Bonos future was a significant contribution to the enhancement of

London's position as Europe's most important financial centre. Eleven designated brokers have been appointed to deal in Bonos futures.

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## Vickers launches cash call

Continued from page 1  
sions, which totalled £718 million, up 10 per cent, show a company with two distinct trends. In four areas: army tanks, aerospace components, medical equipment and marine engineering, accounting for £413 million of sales, profits fell 23 per cent, but none the less amounted to £25.8 million.

In automotive, which includes the Cosworth high-performance engine business as well as Rolls-Royce cars and Riva speed boats, losses were £15.8 million, after a loss of £17.3 million during 1991.

A massive effort has been made to cut the cost base at Rolls-Royce. In its peak year, 1990, the business delivered more than 3,200 cars and made operating profits of £32 million. Last year, Rolls sold 1,378 cars, down 20 per cent on the previous year.

In the past two years, £49.6 million of the £65.8 million spent by Vickers on restructuring has succeeded in cutting the break-even level of the business to 1,300 cars. Sir Colin said. Across the group, more than 1,500 jobs were shed last year, bringing the employee total down to 9,400.

Prospects will now hinge on a recovery in car sales, and on winning new tank orders. Vickers has received a letter of intent for the purchase of 36 Challenger 2 tanks for Oman and believes Britain's Ministry of Defence must decide next year whether to upgrade its 400 Challenger 1 tanks or replace them with some 200 Challenger 2 models.

## Drink and food trade jobs axed

The loss of 540 jobs in the food and brewing industries was confirmed yesterday.

Scottish and Newcastle Breweries is to shed 270 management and staff jobs in Scotland and the north of England in an effort to control costs.

A similar number of jobs will go at the Fray Bentos site in Hackney, east London. Production will be transferred to King's Lynn, Norfolk.

## Cluff seeks £4m gold loan

Cluff Resources, the gold mining group, is negotiating a £4 million gold loan in relation to its Zimbabwean production. Interest rates that at one point touched 45 per cent and a drought led to difficulties in remitting dividends to London in 1992, although Zimbabwean gold production rose by 7 per cent to 72,238 ounces.

Cluff also wrote off £1.64 million against its Spanish mine to leave the group showing a 1992 net loss of £1.73 million compared with a previous restated 1991 profit of £677,000. The 1p dividend is passed.

## No dividend

Union Square, the property investment group, made a pre-tax loss of £9,000 in the six months to September 30 compared with a loss of £686,000 last time. There is no dividend.

## Alliance & Leicester

Alliance & Leicester Building Society made loss provisions of £215 million in 1992 and not £326 million as stated on March 9. We apologise for the error.

## Standard increases Indian provisions

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STANDARD Chartered is fighting to recover more than £300 million it alleges it is owed after a widespread fraud on the Indian stock market.

The full impact of Standard's involvement in the Bombay stock market scandal was given as the international bank increased its provisions for India from £100 million to £272 million, that is 80 per cent of its total exposure.

The bank's total exposure has soared to £343 million, though this is partly offset by securities it holds worth £34 million, making £309 million net. This compares with the £160 million net exposure estimated when it unveiled interim figures in August.

Since then the fall in the value of sterling has increased the amount of its exposure by £40 million. In addition, Standard has been unable to settle

amounts worth £50 million due from "reputable institutions".

The Indian provisions knocked a big hole in Standard's pre-tax profits, which fell from £205 million to £202 million in 1992. The fall was limited by an exceptional £11 million gain from property disposals in the Far East. The bank is maintaining the dividend for the year at 20p. The total bad debt charge was £366 million.

Rodney Galpin, the chairman, said that there would be "no quick solution" to the Indian problem, while Malcolm Williamson, the chief executive, said Standard has investigated its exposures in other countries to make sure there is no risk of "any other latent India".

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Rodney Galpin, left, and Malcolm Williamson

## Cheltenham & Gloucester profits plunge by a third

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society has reported pre-tax profits for 1992 down 30 per cent to £130.6 million, after taking account of provisions of £210.7 million.

The provisions, which were up from £71.7 million, included £90 million for loans inherited from the Portsmouth Building Society, which merged with C&G, the sixth-largest society in 1991. Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of the C&G, said that half of the Portsmouth provisions were for commercial loans and were non-recurring.

"The need for prudent provisioning in 1992 to cover one-off items should not detract from the fundamentally sound on-going operating profits and quality mortgage book," Mr Longhurst said.

The C&G said its mortgages over 12 months in arrears

were three quarters of the industry average. They had been made worse by the mergers with the Portsmouth, Walthamstow, Guardian and Peckham building societies.

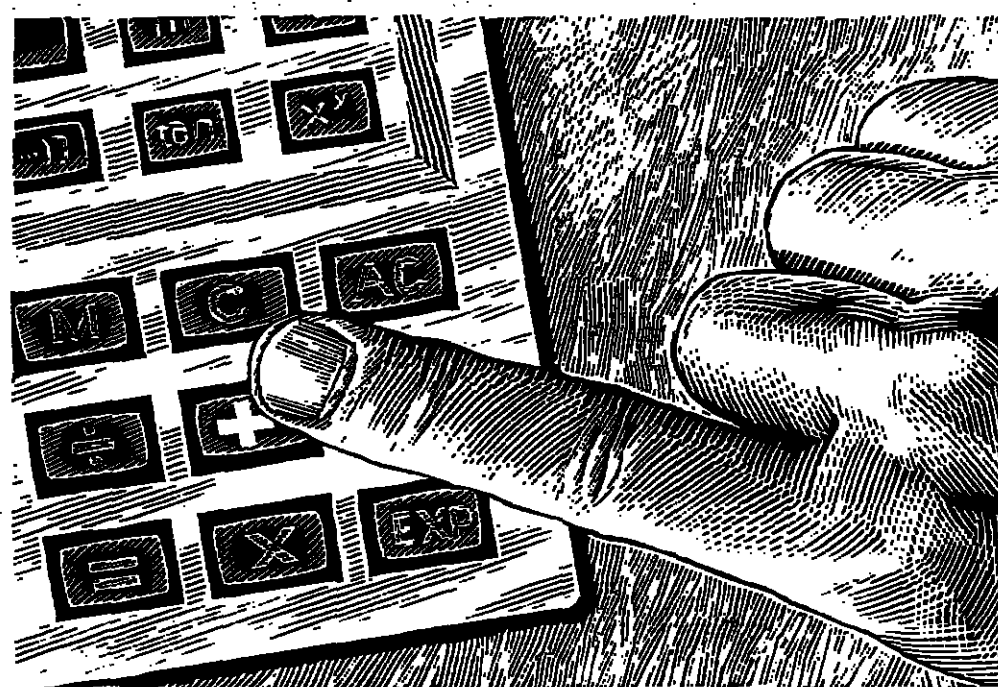
During 1992, the society improved its share of the mortgage and savings market and cut its costs further. The cost income ratio is now 22.1 per cent compared with an industry average of 49 per cent. This is partly due to the success of its postal account and its policy of sticking to core business. It sold its estate agency network during the year.

The society's net retail inflow of £474 million was more than the total for all building societies, but was down on the previous year's £709 million. Last summer, Mr Longhurst persuaded the government to reduce the rate on its National Savings bond for basic

rate taxpayers when he increased the society's mortgage rate. It lent £2.3 billion last year. About 40 per cent of the mortgage advances last year were fixed-rate loans.

Operating profits increased 33.6 per cent to £341 million and group assets rose from £14.8 billion to £16.1 billion. Of the societies that have already reported, only the Leeds Permanent, with a September year-end, and the Woolwich, the third largest, had a higher pre-tax profit than the C&G.

The C&G had mortgage indemnity cover from Municipal Mutual Insurance, which collapsed last year. Mortgage business from 1990 was covered by MMI and the claims were being paid. Mr Longhurst said. Mortgages taken out since the MMI failure are covered by General Accident.



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## STOCK MARKET

## Asda shares climb to record

THE revival in the fortunes of Asda, the supermarket chain, is continuing, with the price adding 2p to a new high of 72p as the company regained its position as a constituent of the top 100 companies.

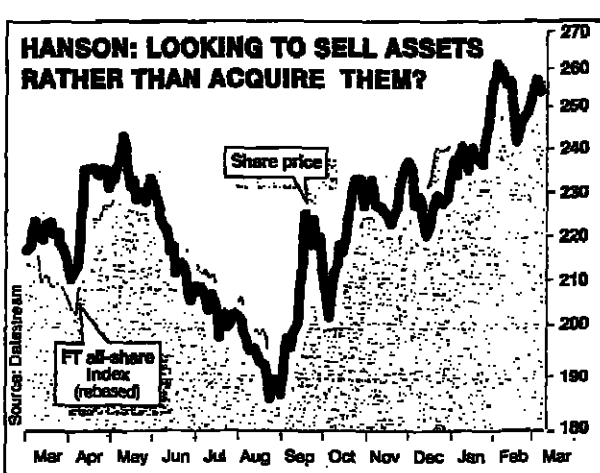
More than 33 million shares changed hands as investors welcomed further evidence of Asda's recovery under the leadership of Archie Norman, chief executive. Asda is set to replace WH Smith, up 8p at 430p.

Danlax Business Systems, up 8p at 640p, joins the list of top 250 companies along with Barrat Developments, 1p easier at 127p. Owners Abroad, 4p lighter at 139p, FR Group 2p off at 285p, TT, 1p better at 265p, and Henderson Administration, unchanged at 978p.

They replace Eam, steady at 217p. Amstrad, 4p better at 314p. Sherwood, down 5p at



Stein holding reduced



155p. Hewlett-Packard, all-square at 93p. Amec, 6p down at 79p. Hartstone, 4p cheaper at 162p. An absence of sellers drove prices higher and enabled the rest of the equity market to consolidate its position in the wake of this week's record-breaking run.

The FT-SE 100 virtually halved an early lead of almost 12 points to finish 6.8 up at 2,956.7, just a whisker shy of its closing high of 2,957.3 established on Monday.

Hanson eased another 2p to 255p in the wake of this week's profit downgrading for 1994. City speculators have been waiting for it to make a stable acquisition, but many of its most likely targets have

been enjoying a revival on the back of the market's strength.

BZW is not entirely convinced Hanson is prepared to make acquisitions at the top of the market. Mark Cusack, of BZW, said: "If Hanson wishes to trim part of its portfolio of companies, what better time to sell into market strength in both the US and UK?"

## BRITISH FUNDS

GOVERNMENT securities enjoyed a revival of fortune, supported by stronger European bonds markets. On the futures market, the June series of the long gilt touched a peak of £107½ before closing at £107½, a rise of 10 ticks on the day, with 38,000 contracts completed.

Brokers said sentiment has also been boosted by recent reductions in forecasts for both inflation and the PSBR. The strength of the market enabled the Bank of England to exhaust remaining supplies of the £400 million tranche of Conversion 9½ per cent 2004 issued on Monday.

The cash market spent a volatile session with the best gains focused on the ten-year range. At the shorter end, Exchequer 9½ per cent 1998 was unchanged at £112½, while in longs, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 was eight ticks higher at £107½.

1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	2040/41	2041/42	2042/43	2043/44	2044/45	2045/46	2046/47	2047/48	2048/49	2049/50	2050/51	2051/52	2052/53	2053/54	2054/55	2055/56	2056/57	2057/58	2058/59	2059/60	2060/61	2061/62	2062/63	2063/64	2064/65	2065/66	2066/67	2067/68	2068/69	2069/70	2070/71	2071/72	2072/73	2073/74	2074/75	2075/76	2076/77	2077/78	2078/79	2079/80	2080/81	2081/82	2082/83	2083/84	2084/85	2085/86	2086/87	2087/88	2088/89	2089/90	2090/91	2091/92	2092/93	2093/94	2094/95	2095/96	2096/97	2097/98	2098/99	2099/00	2100/01	2101/02	2102/03	2103/04	2104/05	2105/06	2106/07	2107/08	2108/09	2109/10	2110/11	2111/12	2112/13	2113/14	2114/15	2115/16	2116/17	2117/18	2118/19	2119/20	2120/21	2121/22	2122/23	2123/24	2124/25	2125/26	2126/27	2127/28	2128/29	2129/30	2130/31	2131/32	2132/33	2133/34	2134/35	2135/36	2136/37	2137/38	2138/39	2139/40	2140/41	2141/42	2142/43	2143/44	2144/45	2145/46	2146/47	2147/48	2148/49	2149/50	2150/51	2151/52	2152/53	2153/54	2154/55	2155/56	2156/57	2157/58	2158/59	2159/60	2160/61	2161/62	2162/63	2163/64	2164/65	2165/66	2166/67	2167/68	2168/69	2169/70	2170/71	2171/72	2172/73	2173/74	2174/75	2175/76	2176/77	2177/78	2178/79	2179/80	2180/81	2181/82	2182/83	2183/84	2184/85	2185/86	2186/87	2187/88	2188/89	2189/90	2190/91	2191/92	2192/93	2193/94	2194/95	2195/96	2196/97	2197/98	2198/99	2199/00	2200/01	2201/02	2202/03	2203/04	2204/05	2205/06	2206/07	2207/08	2208/09	2209/10	2210/11	2211/12	2212/13	2213/14	2214/15	2215/16	2216/17	2217/18	2218/19	2219/20	2220/21	2221/22	2222/23	2223/24	2224/25	2225/26	2226/27	2227/28	2228/29	2229/30	2230/31	2231/32	2232/33	2233/34	2234/35	2235/36	2236/37	2237/38	2238/39	2239/40	2240/41	2241/42	2242/43	2243/44	2244/45	2245/46	2246/47	2247/48	2248/49	2249/50	2250/51	2251/52	2252/53	2253/54	2254/55	2255/56	2256/57	2257/58	2258/59	2259/60	2260/61	2261/62	2262/63	2263/64	2264/65	2265/66	2266/67	2267/68	2268/69	2269/70	2270/71	2271/72	2272/73	2273/74	2274/75	2275/76	2276/77	2277/78	2278/79	2279/80	2280/81	2281/82	2282/83	2283/84	2284/85	2285/86	2286/87	2287/88	2288/89	2289/90	2290/91	2291/92	2292/93	2293/94	2294/95	2295/96	2296/97	2297/98	2298/99	2299/00	2300/01	2301/02	2302/03	2303/04	2304/05	2305/06	2306/07	2307/08	2308/09	2309/10	2310/11	2311/12	2312/13	2313/14	2314/15	2315/16	2316/17	2317/18	2318/19	2319/20	2320/21	2321/22	2322/23	2323/24	2324/25	2325/26	2326/27	2327/28	2328/29	2329/30	2330/31	2331/32	2332/33	2333/34	2334/35	2335/36	2336/37	2337/38	2338/39	2339/40	2340/41	2341/42	2342/43	2343/44	2344/45	2345/46	2346/47	2347/48	2348/49	2349/50	2350/51	2351/52	2352/53	2353/54	2354/55	2355/56	2356/57	2357/58	2358/59	2359/60	2360/61	2361/62	2362/63	2363/64	2364/65	2365/66	2366/67	2367/68	2368/69	2369/70	2370/71	2371/72	2372/73	2373/74	2374/75	2375/76	2376/77	2377/78	2378/79	2379/80	2380/81	2381/82	2382/83	2383/84	2384/85	2385/86	2386/87	2387/88	2388/89	2389/90	2390/91	2391/92	2392/93	2393/94	2394/95	2395/96	2396/97	2397/98	2398/99	2399/00	2400/01	2401/02	2402/03	2403/04	2404/05	2405/06	2406/07	2407/08	2408/09	2409/10	2410/11	2411/12	2412/13	2413/14	2414/15	2415/16	2416/17	2417/18	2418/19	2419/20	2420/21	2421/22	2422/23	2423/24	2424/25	2425/26	2426/27	2427/28	2428/29	2429/30	2430/31	2431/32	2432/33	2433/34	2434/35	2435/36	2436/37	2437/38	2438/39	2439/40	2440/41	2441/42	2442/43	2443/44	2444/45	2445/46	2446/47	2447/48	2448/49	2449/50	2450/51	2451/52	2452/53	2453/54	2454/55	2455/56	2456/57	2457/58	2458/59	2459/60	2460/61	2461/62	2462/63	2463/64	2464/65	2465/66	2466/67	2467/68	2468/69	2469/70	2470/71	2471/72	2472/73	2473/74	2474/75	2475/76	2476/77	2477/78	2478/79	2479/80	2480/81	2481/82	2482/83	2483/84	2484/85	2485/86	2486/87	2487/88	2488/89	2489/90	2490/91	2491/92	2492/93	2493/94	2494/95	2495/96	2496/97	2497/98	2498/99	2499/00	2500/01	2501/02	2502/03	2503/04	2504/05	2505/06	2506/07	2507/08	2508/09	2509/10	2510/11	2511/12	2512/13	2513/14	2514/15	2515/16	2516/17	2517/18	2518/19	2519/20	2520/21	2521/22	2522/23	2523/24	2524/25	2525/26	2526/27	2527/28	2528/29	2529/30	2530/31	2531/32	2532/33	2533/34	2534/35	2535/36	2536/37	2537/38	2538/39	2539/40	2540/41	2541/42	2542/43	2543/44	2544/45	2545/46	2546/47	2547/48	2548/49	2549/50	2550/51	2551/52	2552/53	2553/54	2554/55	2555/56	2556/57	2557/58	2558/59	2559/60	2560/61	2561/62	2562/63	2563/64	2564/65	2565/66	2566/67	2567/68	2568/69	2569/70	2570/71	2571/72	2572/73	2573/74	2574/75	2575/76	2576/77	2577/78	2578/79	2579/80	2580/81	2581/82	2582/83	2583/84	2584/85	2585/86	2586/87	2587/88	2588/89	2589/90	2590/91	2591/92	2592/93	2593/94	2594/95	2595/96	2596/97	2597/98	2598/99	2599/00	2600/01	2601/02	2602/03	2603/04	2604/05	2605/06	2606/07	2607/08	2608/09	2609/10	2610/11	2611/12	2612/13	2613/14	2614/15	2615/16	2616/17	2617/18	2618/19	2619/20	2620/21	2621/22	2622/23	2623/24	2624/25	2625/26	2626/27	2627/28	2628/29	2629/30	2630/31	2631/32	2632/33	2633/34	2634/35	2635/36	2636/37	2637/38	2638/39	2639/40	2640/41	2641/42	2642/43	2643/44	2644/45	2645/46	2646/47	2647/48	2648/49	2649/50	2650/51	2651/52	2652/53	2653/54	2654/55	2655/56	2656/57	2657/58	2658/59	2659/60	2660/61	2661/62	2662/63	2663/64	2664/65	2665/66	2666/67	2667/68	2668/69	2669/70	2670/71	2671/72	2672/73	2673/74	2674/75	2675/76	2676/77	2677/78	2678/79	2679/80	2680/81	2681/82	2682/83	2683/84	2684/85	2685/86	2686/87	2687/88	2688/89	2689/90	2690/91	2691/92	2692/93	2693/94	2694/95	2695/96	2696/97	2697/98	2698/99	2699/00	2700/01	2701/02	2702/03	2703/04	2704/05	2705/06	2706/07	2707/08	2708/09	2709/10	2710/11	2711/12	2712/13	2713/14	2714/15	2715/16	2716/17	2717/18	2718/19	2719/20	2720/21	2721/22	2722/23	2723/24	2724/25	2725/26	2726/27	2727/28	2728/29	2729/30	2730/31	2731/32	2732/33	2733/34	2734/35	2735/36	2736/37	2737/38	2738/39	2739/40	2740/41	2741/42	2742/43	2743/44	2744/45	2745/46	2746/47	2747/48	2748/49	2749/50	2750/51	2751/52	2752/53	2753/54	2754/55	2755/56	2756/57	2757/58	2758/59	2759/60	2760/61	2761/62	2762/63	2763/64	2764/65	2765/66	2766/67	2767/68	2768/69	2769/70	2770/71	2771/72	2772/73	2773/74	2774/75	2775/76	2776/77	2777/78	2778/79	2779/80	2780/81	2781/82	2782/83	2783/84	2784/85	2785/86	2786/87	2787/88	2788/89	2789/90	2790/91	2791/92	2792/93	2793/94	2794/95	2795/96	2796/97	2797/98	2798/99	2799/00	2800/01	2801/02	2802/03	2803/04	2804/05	2805/06	2806/07	2807/08	2808/09	2809/10	2810/11	2811/12	2812/13	2813/14	2814/15	2815/16	2816/17	2817/18	2818/19	2819/20	2820/21	2821/22	2822/23	2823/24	2824/25	2825/26	2826/27	2827/28	2828/29	2829/30	2830/31	2831/32	2832/33	2833/34	2834/35	2835/36	2836/37	2837/38	2838/39	2839/40	2840/41	2841/42	2842/43	2843/44	2844/45	2845/46	2846/47	2847/48	2848/49	2849/50	2850/51	2851/52	2852/53	2853/54	2854/55	2855/56	2856/57	2857/58	2858/59	2859/60	2860/61	2861/62	2862/63	2863/64	2864/65	2865/66	2866/67	2867/68	2868/69	2869/70	2870/71	2871/72	2872/73	2873/74	2874/75	2875/76	2876/77	2877/78	2878/79	2879/80	2880/81	2881/82	2882/83	2883/84	2884/85	2885/86	2886/87	2887/88	2888/89	2889/90	2890/91	2891/92	2892/93	2893/94	2894/95	2895/96	2896/97	2897/98	2898/99	2899/00	2900/01	2901/02	2902/03	2903/04	2904/05	2905/06	2906/07	2907/08	2908/09	2909/10	2910/11	2911/12	2912/13	2913/14	2914/15	2915/16	2916/17	2917/18	2918/19	2919/20	2920/21	2921/22	2922/23	2923/24	2924/25	2925/26	2926/27	2927/28	2928/29	2929/30	2930/31	2931/32	2932/33	2933/34	2934/35	2935/36	2936/37	2937/38	2938/39	2939/40	2940/41	2941/42	2942/43	2943/44	2944/45	2945/46	2946/47	2947/48	2948/49	2949/50	2950/51	2951/52	2952/53	2953/54	2954/55	2955/56	2956/57	2957/58	2958/59	2959/60	2960/61	2961/62	2962/63	2963/64	2964/65	2965/66	2966/67	2967/68	2968/69	2969/70	2970/71	2971/72	2972/73	2973/74	2974/75	2975/76	2976/77	2977/78	2978/79	2979/80	2980/81	2981/82	2982/83	2983/84	2984/85	2985/86	2986/87	2987/88	2988/89	2989/90	2990/91	2991/92	2992/93	2993/94	2994/95	2995/96	2996/97	2997/98	2998/99	2999/00	3000/01	3001/02	3002/03	3003/04	3004/05	3005/06	3006/07	3007/08	3008/09	3009/10	3010/11	3011/12	3012/13	3013/14	3014/15	3015/16	3016/17	3017/18	3018/19	3019/20	3020/21	3021/22	3022/23	3023/2
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# Time to plug UK energy policy into the market

The power generators' duopoly ought to be broken up and the coal industry privatised to stimulate competition, says Colin Robinson

Last October, when British Coal's attempt to shut three fifths of its pits and sack three fifths of its miners was temporarily halted, the government started a "coal review" and promised a white paper in January 1993. So far, there is no white paper, though every week sees the leak of a new date for its appearance.

One reason completion of the white paper is so difficult is that the government's review appears driven by political expediency. Evidently, it is merely a means of discovering the minimum number of pits that have to be "saved" to placate backbench opinion, in the hope of assuring short-term survival.

Moreover, since it is not clear which course of action is most expedient, government is being blown hither and thither by pressure groups that see the coal review as an opportunity to push their favourite causes. Without clear guiding principles, government is unable to distinguish between the different measures it is urged to implement, many of them mutually exclusive.

Another obstacle politicians face is that the electricity supply industry is privatised. For the past 35 years, British governments, of whichever party, have implemented what passed for "energy policy" primarily by twisting the arms of leaders of the electricity supply industry, who were persuaded to burn more coal, to invest in British designed nuclear power stations or whatever else took the politicians' fancy. Industry leaders agreed to these disastrous policies, because they could pass the costs on to electricity consumers. Now, the government has discovered, the industry has shareholders and its leaders no longer acquiesce in whatever the government wants.

If electricity supply had been transformed, by privatisation, into an industry in which competition flourished, this new-found resistance to the whims of politicians would be entirely welcome. But privatisation left the generators, in particular, with substantial market power relative to consumers and to the coal industry.

It is unlikely that, when such an industry bargains with suppliers such as British Coal or with the government, the outcome will be socially beneficial. In discussions with government, its partial information monopoly tempts it to "blind with science", in the hope of payoffs for actions it would have taken anyway.

The coal review is following the same pattern as all other energy "policy" failures of the past. The trigger is some apparently pressing energy issue, in response to which the government takes steps that seem expedient but which store up problems for the future. Inevitably, within a year or two, more expedients are needed to counteract the consequences of the earlier action. Such processes produced misguided



Propping up the industry: some pits could be saved temporarily, until "correct" closures emerged

ventures into nuclear power, protectionist walls around a state-owned coal industry and restricted imports of energy products, all at the expense of consumers.

One alternative is to construct an explicit "long-term" energy policy, either as a substitute for, or as a complement to, market decision-making. It is favoured mainly by those who are innocent of the lessons of the past and by others who see jobs for themselves in the ensuing quagmire. But it is not an alternative at all: it would merely reproduce the failed policies of the past and lend an appearance of legitimacy to the pursuit of expediency. As experience suggests that government action in the energy market (as elsewhere) tends to those demands of powerful pressure groups which are congruent with short-term political objectives. Thus "planning" never results in a wise and altruistic regime. Omniscience is in short supply, too. Since the future is unknown, planners are likely to make massive errors and to strangle the functioning of markets.

A genuine alternative approach is for the government to complete its half-hearted attempts of recent years to introduce competition into energy

markets. Competitive markets continually create new knowledge to an extent which planners cannot hope to achieve. Entrepreneurship, innovation, advances in technology and management are the outcomes of rivalry in markets, not of blueprints drawn up by planners.

There is a case for saving some pits temporarily, simply because energy markets are at present so distorted that it is unclear what "correct" pit closure decisions would be. But, at the same time, the government should begin to withdraw the state from direct interference in the energy market, establishing clear policy aims and means of working towards them. A prime aim should be to create privatised and competitive coal and electricity markets. (This is explained in more detail in *Making a Market in Energy*, Institute of Economic Affairs, Current Controversies, number 3.) In such markets, with rivalry among actual and potential producers, bargaining among suppliers and consumers would establish market prices which would provide an appropriate basis for investment and closure decisions. Because such a basis does not at present exist, there is fruitless argument over whether the

**As the future is unknown, planners tend to make gross errors and stifle markets**

"dash for gas" was justified, whether pit closure decisions are being taken properly and whether ageing Magnox nuclear plant should continue in service.

To accomplish the aim, the generation duopoly would almost certainly have to be broken up, coal would be privatised as a number of competing companies, nuclear power subsidies would cease and the nuclear companies would be privatised (with a moratorium on new nuclear plant in the meantime). Such actions, along with the more competitive gas market which one hopes will follow once the monopolies commission has delivered its second report on the industry, would provide a genuinely competitive energy market.

The government would then be able to distance itself from the absurd notion that the cabinet can decide the correct number of coal mines in Britain. Moreover, it would be able to show that it genuinely wants to assist British manufacturing industry, without resort to subsidy. There are few actions better designed to assist manufacturing than the fall in energy costs and the improvement in energy security that would follow from an increased choice of suppliers in a competitive energy market.

Colin Robinson is Professor of Economics at the University of Surrey and Editorial Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs

## BAT's tobacco road

IN TYPICALLY robust style, Sir Patrick Sheehy yesterday brushed aside the threat of increased American federal excise duties on cigarettes, which has dogged BAT Industries' share price since the start of the year. He has a point: suggestions of a \$2 a pack levy are almost certainly pessimistic. More likely the duty will double to 50 cents.

On past experience in other developed countries, this would be unlikely to knock more than \$100 million a year off BAT's operating profit. Little wonder the group will go ahead with plans to raise American production capacity by half to 150 billion cigarettes a year.

The other concern among investors is the group's £2.3 billion borrowings. Sir Patrick naturally argues that gearing is only 54 per cent, a position BAT has been in many times

before. But in pre-Hoylake days the group was less generous with its dividend, so net cash flow was healthier. Last year's 37.2p payout was less than 1.6 times covered, suggesting that the group faces a long haul to reduce debts. That is a shame, since BAT needs to expand its British financial services business. The acquisition of a bank or building society is fraught with difficulty but would relieve the group's exposure to unrelieved advance corporation tax and provide a platform to market life assurance.

In the short term, a further recovery at Eagle Star, which could break even this year if mortgage indemnity losses do not worsen, and more growth in tobacco should ensure another strong rise in earnings. When the dividend cover starts to rise and debts fall, the market will look on BAT with more favour.

## Vickers

VICKERS is a good recovery play if you believe that such products as tanks and Rolls-Royce cars are not obsolete. Yesterday's £60 million rights issue will bring some stability to the business, but will not provide enough funds to exploit new avenues for growth. Even without new ventures, Vickers looks on course to return to a modest profit in 1993.

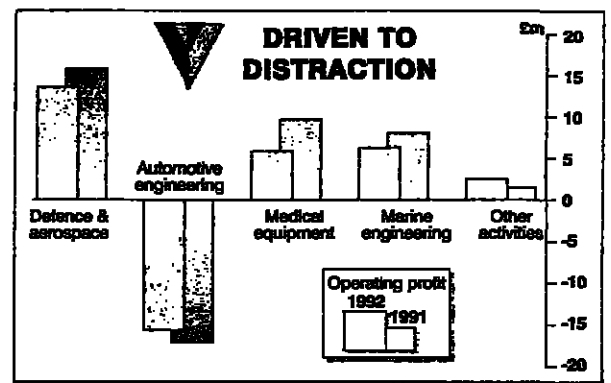
The breakeven point for Rolls-Royce has been reduced from about 3,000 to 1,300 cars a year, even though this has cost £50 million in restructuring since 1991. The group anticipates sales of 1,350 cars this year. The defence division has a reasonably healthy order book of about £650 million, which should keep it going until 1995, despite failing to

secure contracts in Kuwait and the UAE.

Vickers' management recognises that sustainable future growth lies with joint ventures, although there are hurdles to overcome first. No leading car manufacturer, such as BMW, Toyota or General Motors, is going to look at Rolls-Royce until it

has returned to profit, and a bigger defence order book is still needed in order for the group to collaborate from a position of strength.

If the rights issue does not solve all Vickers' problems, at least it gives the company some headroom. On balance, shareholders should give it the benefit of the doubt.



## GKN

BRITISH engineers claim they will sidestep the German recession by raising market share, in the same way they said they would outturn the British recession four years ago. GKN's dependence on Germany's motor industry has risen during the recession and a 15 per cent fall in car production there will hurt.

GKN is, however, used to difficult trading conditions. Annual costs of more than £50 million have been stripped out and tight financial management generated £51 million cash last year.

GKN cannot avoid heavy unrelieved advance corporation tax payments, which restrict cash flow and left the dividend barely covered last year. ACT payments cut earnings by 5.8p and pushed the tax charge up to 45 per cent. The group has little prospect of correcting this. A £700 million contract to build Warrior armoured cars for Kuwait would help but, longer-term, the group's best hope is to place its case to the Treasury. As it stands, GKN could struggle to cover an un-

changed 20.5p dividend this year as the German market deteriorates. Even if earnings rise by a fifth, thanks to a fall in restructuring costs and an improvement in America, the shares will trade above 20 times earnings, which looks over-optimistic.

## Cadbury Schweppes

IN A sector that has seen its recession-proof reputation badly tarnished, Cadbury Schweppes stands out as rock solid. Pre-tax profits rose comfortably, despite a sharp downturn in continental Europe. A strong finish to the year in the UK, which accounts for 46 per cent of trading profit, bodes well for 1993. Improved results are also likely from continental Europe, not least because of the benefits of currency translation on overseas profits.

Cadbury's only real weakness is its lack of scale in some markets outside Britain. Management, recognising this, has pursued a joint venture strategy with even bigger multinationals. But being the junior partner can make returns unexciting. Nonetheless, 1993 looks promising, justifying the group's premium rating, above 16 times likely earnings.

## Standard Chartered

THE market was never convinced it had seen the last of the damage from the Bombay stock market scandal at Standard Chartered. Yesterday, suspicions were confirmed with a £272 million provision, £150 million more than prudent provisions the bank said it had made on the "worst case" scenario at the interim.

In Bombay, Standard is left to recover a web of doubtful debts from recalcitrant banks. Large recoveries are unlikely, so even an 80 per cent provision on the gross exposure of £343 million hardly looks conservative.

In a perfect year, Standard could make a £400 million profit, particularly after sterling's devaluation, but its global network always seems to lurch from one disaster to the next. While a potential p/e ratio of less than eight looks good value, it is an indication of the stock's inherent risks.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Creditors look at Stern

WILLIAM Stern, surpassed by Kevin Maxwell as Britain's biggest bankrupt, is in trouble again. A London property management company headed by the seventies property tycoon, who fought his way back into business to rank among Britain's 200 wealthiest individuals, has gone bust with debts of almost £6 million. The liquidated company, Kensington Management Services, began trading in 1986, after Stern's family put up £500,000 for his former creditors. Despite debts of almost £143 million at the time of his bankruptcy, Stern lived in style throughout the proceedings in a Hampshire Heath mansion he had earlier sold to his father. Stern is now facing legal action from his current creditors. Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise, who yesterday held the first creditors' meeting, may now take civil action against Stern and his fellow directors, Jonathan Schapiro, the liquidator, of Leonard Curtis & Co, is also considering whether action should be taken against the directors — "in particular Mr Stern, which could make them liable for all or part of the company's debts."

### Smoke signals

BAT Industries, the tobacco and insurance giant, could not have chosen a more fitting day to announce 1992 annual results that included a record £1.314 billion trading profit from its tobacco interests. Sir Patrick Sheehy, the smoking

chairman, said it was not an act of defiance that BAT was announcing results on No Smoking Day. In fact, BAT's 1990 annual meeting was held on World No Smoking Day, and that was not a PR slip-up, he said. "You could say today is the second leg of the BAT double", he quipped.

### Cold call

NO WONDER Allied Dunbar's nickname is Allied Crowbar. As I was writing this diary to deadline, a woman who could only be described politely as persistent, tried to entice me into a protracted conversation about life insurance. Teresa Thornton failed to identify herself as a saleswoman before launching into her sales pitch by explaining that journalists are badly in need of financial advice. "Are you trying to sell me something?" I asked, not unreasonably. She stuttered and then abruptly hung up the phone. Allied Dunbar, whose parent BAT reported record

trading profits, later apologised for the inconvenience and insisted that it was "absolutely not" a policy of the company to break Lantoro rules, which require all sales people to identify themselves to unsuspecting consumers. I wonder how many other apologies Allied has made.

### Lizard ways

TAKING time out to read *The Times of India* on a business trip to Bombay, Tom Blackett was amused to read that "Lizard Brothers and Company" planned to increase its shareholding in its Indian joint venture, Credit Capital Finance Corporation. Blackett, the deputy chairman, just happens to advise clients on brand awareness and corporate identity. Perhaps Lizard Brothers could use some of his advice.

### MacSharry's role

RAY MacSharry, the former Irish European commissioner who captured the headlines last November after accusing Jacques Delors of sipping a Gatt deal with the Americans by intervening on behalf of the French, has joined the Bank of Ireland as a director. The tough-talking negotiator, who managed to patch it up with Delors after a brief protest resignation and concluded a deal by the end of last year, began his new duties yesterday after a vote of the bank's "court". He is also the chairman of Ryanair and a director of Jefferson Smurfit, the Irish paper and packaging company.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK



"Couldn't possibly afford one — I'm a shareholder"

## Government is committed to supporting exporters

From the Minister for Trade Sir, Mr Colin Dawson's letter (March 4) paints a very misleading and distorted picture of government support for exporters.

First, the government remains fully committed to supporting UK exports through ECGD. Commitments on new cover in 1992-3 are substantially up on the previous year's and we expect this to continue into 1993-4. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced an additional £700 million of ECGD cover for a number of key overseas markets in the Autumn Statement — proof of our determination to help exporters win business.

Second, it is a travesty to suggest that ECGD is only prepared to do business in "safe" countries. We strive hard to help exporters win business in sometimes quite risky markets — we are on cover for over 150 countries altogether — but exports which are not paid for are not paid for. Since the debt crisis, ECGD has paid out claims of over £8 billion — more than eight times its premium income. On Iraq alone, which Mr Dawson specifically refers to, ECGD expects to pay claims up to

£670 million. Third, on Iran, Mr Dawson points to the risks himself which need no elaboration from me. ECGD is rightly cautious. Other ECAs have actually withdrawn cover. Lastly, although ECGD no longer directly provides short-term credit insurance, it provides reinsurance to NCM (the Dutch credit insurer). In higher risk markets like Iran, this reinsurance is for 100 per cent.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD NEEDHAM, Minister for Trade, Department of Trade and Industry, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, SW1.

## Fines levied on life insurance companies should not deplete policyholders' funds

From D.H. Haydon Sir, The system and effects of regulatory fines on life insurance companies should be reviewed and changed.

You reported (March 5) that Lantoro had fined the Colonial Mutual £130,000. This is wrong. A fine imposed on a mutual life office is, and can only be, an extraction of monies from policyholders' funds.

The very people the various regulators are supposed to protect now have their fund diminished by the fine and all the other costs of any investigation of policies of the earlier years.

I suggest that fines and associated costs should be levied in such manner as to ensure that policyholders' funds are not depleted through wrongful acts of company management. They should be levied according to whether the company is a proprietary or a mutual as follows.

1. Proprietary companies.

The fine to be a charge against shareholders' funds and with no reimbursement out of policyholders' funds. This effectively reduces distributable profits and dividends, leaving the ultimate remedy against management where it belongs — with shareholders.

2. Mutual offices. By definition, the only funds of a mutual belong to policyholders, so (perhaps reduced) fines should be spread among the directors and management, with an attaching stipulation that there is no reimbursement of any sort from office funds or indemnity insurance.

3. For each type of company, the DTI insurance division should review whether or not various managers really are "fit and proper persons".

Yours faithfully, D.H. HAYDON, Heathfield, 4 The Avenue, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

## Loyalty and final pay pension plans

From Mr A.F. Smallbone Sir, The "loyalty" mentioned by Mr Hand (Letters, March 8) to occupational pension schemes may often be that of a dog to its leash. Most private sector arrangements are of the "final" pay type, and those who have been with one employer for, say, 25 years would usually need to be insane to leave voluntarily, particularly if well enough paid to encounter the 1989 "cap" on moving.

This feature of defined benefit schemes not only enables employers to underpay long-serving staff (Smith could get a 25 per cent rise by moving but it would wreck his pension) but discourages those numerate enough to have some inkling of what crooked directors are doing, from blowing the whistle. "You will be an early leaver before the fraud squad have even opened the books..." is so potent a threat, it need never be voiced.

Yours truly, A.F. SMALLBONE, 30 Temple Fortune Lane, NW1

## Barclays has no one to blame but itself for losses and debt write-offs

From E.F. Bagley Sir, In the latter part of 1988, I decided to sever a 40-year connection with Barclays Bank. I had become progressively more irritated with the bank's policy of bombarding me with unsolicited mail, urging me to borrow money for "that new car now" and "that holiday of a lifetime", etc. I was proof against their blandishments, as I was too old a hand to borrow in order to fulfil dream wishes. In any case, I had a satisfactory vehicle and could afford such holidays as I desired.

My irritation with Barclays arose from the knowledge that younger or less responsible people were receiving the same mailshots. I considered it immoral in a bank to tempt the unwary or improvident among their clients into borrowing sums which they might well be unable to service or repay on time. I expressed these views in a letter, but received no reply. Shortly afterwards, I cut up my Barclaycard and transferred my accounts elsewhere.

I also wrote again to Barclays reiterating my criticism and pointing out what I had previously supposed

would be obvious to any reputable banker, viz that such a policy was both reckless and wrong, and could only end in tears both for borrowers and, conceivably, for Barclays too. Of course — no reply! I would lay odds that my letter hit the waste paper basket within seconds.

I knew that the policy ended in tears a couple of years ago for many private and company borrowers. I felt sorry for the private clients and for the employees of the failed companies, but imagine the degree of *schadenfreude* that I am enjoying at the news last week of Barclays' losses and bad debt write-offs.

Yours faithfully, E.F. BAGLEY (Retired headteacher), 402 Ongar Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood, Essex.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of *The Times* can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

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## Directors 'should get out on to shopfloor'

British executives are being urged to follow the American example and serve on no more than three boards, with the size of each board limited to 10 members

By JON ASHWORTH

NON-EXECUTIVE-directors need to get out of the boardroom and spend more time on the shopfloor. That is the conclusion of a survey of the role of independent directors unveiled at a conference in London yesterday.

The study was commissioned by PRO NED, which promotes the wider presence of independent non-executive directors in the boardroom, and the Sundridge Park Management Centre.

Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman of PRO NED and begetter of the Cadbury report on corporate governance, told a meeting of more than 100 businessmen that the formula for creating the "ideal" board did not exist since every board was different and economic and social climates were continually in flux.

However, he said it was worth noting some American ideas being canvassed, including the proposal that size of boards should be limited to ten, with two independent directors for every director connected with the business.

Under the American model, no one should serve on more than three boards. Where the chief executive officer is also the chairman, one of the outside directors should be designated the "lead" director.

There should be an annual systematic evaluation of the performance of the company's chief executive officer and of the board itself, led by independent directors.

Sir Adrian said: "The point about the board's need to assess its own performance is a

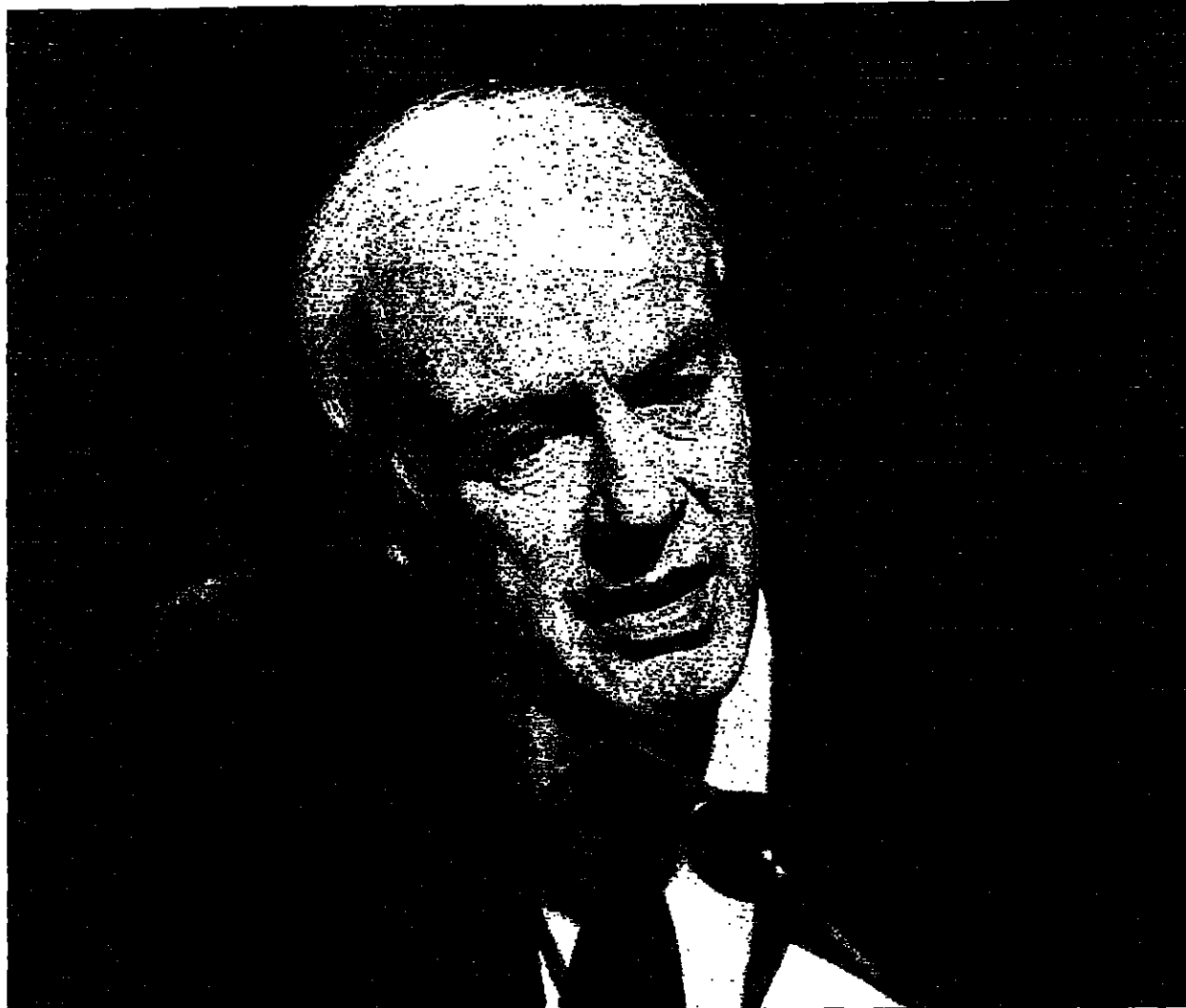
telling one, because it is probably the part of the board's task which we find hardest to carry out." His remarks are likely to refocus attention on Barclays Bank where Andrew Buxton holds the combined role of chairman and chief executive. Mr Buxton took over from Sir John Quinlan in January and is under pressure to split the posts.

Barclays unveiled a full-year loss of £242 million last week compared with a profit of £533 million in 1991. At the time, Mr Buxton said there would be no board changes resulting from the figures although he indicated that his role would be divided.

The PRO NED study concluded that non-executive directors should spend more time getting to know a company's operations at first hand if they were to enhance their effectiveness. They should visit sites and subsidiaries, meet divisional managers and examine internal financial controls.

However, there was a danger that too aggressive an approach by independent directors would simply alienate their executive colleagues. In a reference to some of Britain's fallen corporate leaders, the study points to the difficulties facing a non-executive director when the chairman is a "thug" or a "robber baron".

The business climate of the 1980s encouraged strong, individualistic leaders who were admired for their drive, it says, but their management style tended to lead to passivity in the rest of the board.



Successful formula: acquisitions and a move to higher margin products have helped Bernard Taylor lift profits

## Medeva bucks trend to soar 115%

By PHILIP PANGALOS

A MOVE to higher margin products and acquisitions helped Medeva, the fast-growing pharmaceuticals producer and distributor, to again buck the depressed trend with a healthy 115 per cent surge in full-year profits.

Concentration on low-cost and specialist drugs and improved margins helped pre-tax profits advance to £36 million in the year to end-December, up from £16.7 million last time.

Strong organic growth and acquisitions saw group turnover expand 75 per cent to £144.2 million.

Bernard Taylor, the chairman, said it has been "another exciting year" for Medeva, with gross margins up from 46 per cent to 56 per cent as the company focused increasingly on higher margin prod-

ucts. "There has been a deliberate attempt to move to higher margin products," he said.

There was also an underlying growth in sales of more than 20 per cent. However, Mr Taylor said that sales and marketing expenses and research and development ratios have also risen to support the group's move to higher margin products.

Medeva's strategy of concentrating on low-cost and niche drugs, at a time when governments around the world are cutting health costs, is reaping rewards, although there is some concern about future government actions, especially in America.

"There is no doubt the pressures are there. The world is definitely turning the screws on pharmaceutical prices, but

those that will suffer most are the originators of drugs. We don't find ourselves, fortunately, in that category. There might be some spillage, although we will be much less affected," Mr Taylor said.

Medeva, which has grown through a series of acquisitions in the last 12 months, says there could be more to come. Mr Taylor said Medeva has "not yet fully established the framework for our long-term development as a significant pharmaceutical company".

The company plans to continue building its presence in the vital American market, but still needs to create a fully effective role in continental Europe.

Meanwhile, Medeva has three new products which are being taken to the point of

product licence application and "should make a substantial contribution to our growth from the mid-90s". They include an important hepatitis B vaccine, which the company said had made an "incredibly good start".

Shareholders will benefit from a jump in the total dividend to 2.25p a share, up from 1.5p last time, after a proposed final payout of 1.5p a share, against 1p previously. Earnings rose to 12.9p (8.4p) a share, with fully diluted earnings of 12.2p (8.3p) a share.

Gearing stands at about 47 per cent, although the company has a healthy cash flow and would not hesitate to go back to shareholders to help finance the right deal in the future.

Medeva shares advanced 9p to 234p.

## Unions likely to see finances worsen in 1990s

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TRADE union finances are likely to worsen throughout the 1990s, according to a study today which for the first time examines Britain's unions from a financial and business perspective.

The study, by the London Business School, concludes that unions managed to improve their finances in the 1980s, largely through investment policies, better financial management and higher subscriptions, even as membership levels declined.

The study's principal author, Paul Willman, professor of industrial relations at the LBS, says, however: "In the 1990s, the financial and membership position is unlikely to improve greatly." Mergers will continue, but union finances will make the recruitment of members difficult, the study says. The cost of recruiting, like the cost of strikes, is high, and Professor Willman says that "there is likely to be collusion between the large remaining unions on issues such as recruitment because the costs of competition will become punitive".

New government legislation on the internal management of trade union finances, currently going through Parliament, will also lead to union

members questioning the way their unions handle money, the study's authors suggest. The LBS report uses a mass of government data on finances of the unions to analyse their business health.

It says that there is evidence that unions have become more aware of the financial and organisational necessities for survival. Even though membership has fallen, unions have become better at collecting subscriptions, often indexing them either to basic pay rates or to retail price inflation. Unions have increasingly put their money into equities and established internal budgeting systems to find out where their money goes.

Trade unions, which are facing continuing membership losses, are expected to use the LBS survey, which includes a number of detailed case studies of union finances, including the controversial finances of the National Union of Mineworkers, as a model for improving their financial arrangements.

Union Business: Trade Union Organisation and Financial Reform in the Thatcher Years, by Paul Willman, Tim Morris and Beverly Aston, Cambridge University Press.

## Shanks in sites deal

By CARL MORTISHED

SHANKS & McEwan Group, the waste management company, has bought four landfill sites from Hanson and acquired an option on a fifth, for £20.2 million. Hanson is taking 8.7 million shares in Shanks as partial payment and the waste management group is assuming £2.2 million in agricultural restoration liabilities. Hanson will also receive royalties of 15 per cent of the revenues generated from waste disposal at the sites.

The sites, formerly clay pits, are at Broghborough, Bedfordshire, Dogsthorpe, Cambridgeshire, and Bletchley

and Calvert, Buckinghamshire. Shanks has also taken an option to buy a leasehold interest on a site at Elstow, Bedfordshire, subject to planning consent, for £7.25 million plus 15 per cent royalties.

Roger Hewitt, chief executive of Shanks & McEwan, said the new sites were not required for short-term use. Shanks handles 7 million tonnes of waste per year, of which 25 per cent is long-term contracts from municipal authorities. After the purchase, it will have 85 million cubic metres of landfill capacity with planning consent.

### Court of Appeal

## Bank liable for forged cheque

First Sport Ltd v Barclays Bank plc

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Evans [Judgment March 9]

A bank which provided its account holders with cheque guarantee cards was, on the particular conditions applicable to the use of the card, liable to meet a cheque presented by a retailer which bore a forged signature resembling that of the authorised signatory.

The Court of Appeal so held, Lord Justice Kennedy dissenting, allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, First Sport Ltd, from Judge Morrell, who, sitting at Peterborough County Court, had concluded on appeal from a district judge that the defendant, Barclays Bank plc, was not liable for a cheque drawn in the sum of £49.99 by an unknown fraudster who had purported to be the authorised signatory of a Connect Card issued by the bank and had used the signatory's stolen cheque and card in purchasing goods from the plaintiff.

After judgment had been given, the bank discovered that it had relied on a form of wording in the conditions of use of the card which had not been those appearing on the card used for the relevant transaction. On appeal the court considered the matter on the basis of the conditions which were applicable.

Mr Michael Douglas for the plaintiff; Mr Neville Thomas QC and Mr Samuel Newman for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that it was common ground that when a cheque was presented by the account holder, supported by a cheque card, and accepted by a retailer in accordance with the conditions stated on the card, a contract came into existence between the retailer and the bank which was independent of (i) the contract for the sale or supply of goods between the retailer and his customer who had presented the card, and (ii) the relationship between the account holder and the bank.

The Connect Card presented to the plaintiff had the same account number as the cheque and bore the name of the account holder. The

reverse of the card beneath a space for the "authorised signature" bore the words: "This card may only be used by the authorised signatory..."

His Lordship set out the conditions for use, namely that payment up to £50 on a single personal cheque issued within the United Kingdom during the validity of the card in settlement of a single transaction would be guaranteed by the bank provided that: 1 No other cheque guaranteed by a Barclays card was also used to settle the transaction;

2 The cheque was taken from a Barclays cheque book issued in the United Kingdom;

3 The signature on the cheque agreed with the specimen on the card;

4 The signature on the cheque was written in the presence of the seller, and

5 The seller recorded the number of the card on the reverse of the cheque.

It was common ground that all the conditions were complied with and in particular that the signature on the cheque agreed with the specimen on the card.

The words that only the authorised signatory was entitled to use the card put the retailer on notice that he could deal only with that person for the purpose of the transaction with the bank, but that did not answer the question whether he could safely deal with a person he reasonably believed was the authorised signatory, but who was not. It went without saying that the retailer had to act in good faith.

The card conveyed to the retailer or to any other person to whom it was presented an offer made by the bank which, if accepted, established contractual relations between them.

That strictly was a unilateral contract and it was unnecessary for the retailer's acceptance to be communicated to the bank.

But the bearer had to have authority to convey the offer on behalf of the bank. The authorised signatory had actual authority to do so.

If the bearer was some other person, even a thief, and provided the retailer had no reason to believe that he was not the authorised signatory and the ac-

count holder, then, in his Lordship's judgment, he had ostensible authority to convey the bank's offer on its behalf.

If the bank had intended to make it clear to the retailer that such a person would have no authority, actual or apparent, then the statement could have been worded to that effect. Thus, the scope of the bearer's apparent authority depended on the correct interpretation of the bank's own statement on the card.

The retailer was entitled to rely on that statement, on its true construction, and if he complied with the conditions then the bank became bound by its undertaking to pay.

The bank had submitted that in the absence of actual authority there had to be some form of apparent authority, and that that was neither the case of a true agent who exceeded his authority while remaining within the limits of the usual authority of a person employed by the principal in his position, nor a case where the principal had represented that the agent had the authority which he claimed.

The self-professed agent could not create or enlarge his own authority by any representation that he made to the third party, and so, as the bank submitted, the principal had to be shown to be estopped by some representation which he himself had made.

In his Lordship's judgment, the necessary representation was established in the form of the statement on the card which the bank addressed to retailers or other cheque-payees to whom the card might be produced. The scope of the representation and therefore of the estoppel thus depended on the terms of the statement made.

His Lordship rejected the bank's argument that a forged cheque meant that in law it was unsigned: see section 24 of the Bills of Exchange Act 1882. The reference to "cheque" in the bank's statement on the card was not to be interpreted in that technical sense.

The lack of direct authority on the point made it necessary to approach the issue on the basis of principle. That led to the true construction of the bank's statement on the card, which led to the conclusion that the plaintiff was entitled to succeed.

The requirement as to the defendant's state of mind was the same whether criminal or civil proceedings were brought. Actual knowledge of the nuisance did not need to be established.

It was correct to say that a defendant was guilty of public nuisance if he knew or ought to have known, because the means of knowledge were available to him, that there was a real risk that the consequence of granting a licence to use his field would create the sort of nuisance that in fact occurred.

### Law Report March 11 1993

## Admissibility of expert evidence

Regina v Stockwell

Before Lord Taylor of Gosford, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Henry and Mr Justice Belding [Judgment March 8]

The admissibility of evidence of a facial mapping expert was considered by the Court of Appeal when dismissing the appeal of Christopher James Stockwell against his conviction on June 14, 1991 at Maidstone Crown Court (Judge Simpson and a jury) of robbery and attempted robbery, on which he was sentenced to a total of seven years imprisonment.

Mr William Clegg QC, who did not appear below, and Mr John A. Caudle, both assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr R. A. Bayliss for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that on April 27, 1990 at about 12 noon a man robbed the Leeds Building Society in Bradford. A video film taken by a security camera recorded the crime.

On September 5, 1990 someone attempted to rob the Woolwich Building Society in Beckenham, High Street. Photographs were also taken of that crime by a security camera.

The appellant denied involvement in either incident. The issue at his trial was one of identification. The trial judge ruled that the

evidence of Mr Richard Headley Neave, a facial mapping expert, could be adduced by the Crown to assist the jury in determining whether the appellant appeared in the photographs during the robbery and attempted robbery.

Mr Clegg submitted that the admission of the expert evidence was not justified; the jury was capable of deciding from their own observations whether the photographs were that of the defendant in their charge.

He argued that there were only two classes of case in this context: (i) those that raised straightforward questions of fact, on which expert evidence was inadmissible; and (ii) those that raised questions which depended on specialist knowledge, where the jury could form no view without expert evidence, which was therefore not only admissible but necessary. He admitted of no middle ground.

Reliance was placed on what Lord Justice Lawton had said in *R v Turner (Terence)* [1975] QB 834, 841: "An expert's opinion is admissible to furnish the court with scientific information which is likely to be outside the experience and knowledge of a judge or jury."

"If on proven facts a judge or jury can form their own conclusions without help, then the opinion of an expert is unnecessary..."

The inference to the jury forming "their own conclusions without help" was to be noted. Where, for example, there was a clear photograph and no suggestion that the subject had changed his appearance, a jury could usually reach a conclusion without help.

Where, as here, the accused admittedly had grown a beard shortly before his arrest and it was suggested, further, that the robber might have been disguised by spectacles and a wig, a comparison of photographs and defendant might not be straightforward.

In such circumstances their Lordships could see no reason why expert evidence, if it could provide a jury with information and assistance they would otherwise lack, should not be given. But in each case it was for the judge to decide whether the issue was one where the jury could be assisted by expert evidence and whether the expert tendered had the expertise to provide the assistance.

Mr Clegg submitted next that Mr Neave, an artist working in the field of medicine and life sciences at Manchester University, was not an expert of facial mapping.

The judge ruled that, on the basis of his experience and by the nature of the assistance he could give, Mr Neave's evidence was admissible. In their Lordships' judgment the judge was entitled to come to that conclusion.

It was submitted, further, that even if Mr Neave was allowed rightly to state his findings, he should not have been allowed to

give his opinion on the very issue before the jury.

"Whether an expert could give his opinion on what had been called the ultimate issue had long been a vexed question."

If there was such a prohibition, it had long been more honoured in the breach than the observance: see, for example, *DPP v A* and *B. C. Chevington Ltd* [1968] 1 QB 159, 164 and the cases cited at 801 of *Cross on Evidence* (7th edition) (1990).

The rationale behind the supposed prohibition was that an expert should not usurp the functions of the jury. But since counsel could bring the witness so close to the jury on the ultimate issue that the inference as to his views was obvious, the rule could only be a matter of form rather than substance.

In their Lordships' view, an expert was called to give his opinion and he should be allowed to do so. It was, however, important that the judge should make it clear to the jury that they were not bound by the expert's opinion and that the issue was for them to decide.

The trial judge had done just that and he had put Mr Neave's evidence in its proper perspective. None of the grounds of appeal was well founded, and accordingly the appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Maidstone.

## Defendant ought to have known

Regina v Shorrocks

When directing a jury hearing a charge of public nuisance, a trial judge was correct in ruling that it was sufficient for the prosecution to show that the defendant knew or ought to have known that as a result of his actions a public nuisance would be created.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Simon Brown, Mr Justice Poplewell and Mr Justice Rattee) so held in a reserved judgment on February 18 when dismissing an appeal by Peter Coar Shorrocks

against his conviction, on a re-trial, on May 9, 1991 at Preston Crown Court (Judge Lockett and a jury) of public nuisance.

MR JUSTICE RATTEE, giving the judgment of the court, said that in September 1989 an "acid house party" took place on farmland owned by Mr Shorrocks and the event caused a great deal of noise and disturbance.

Mr Shorrocks had agreed to hire out the field but said he did not know what sort of event was intended.

The requirement as to the defendant's state of mind was the same whether criminal or civil proceedings were brought. Actual knowledge of the nuisance did not need to be established.

It was correct to say that a defendant was guilty of public nuisance if he knew or ought to have known, because the means of knowledge were available to him, that there was a real risk that the consequence of granting a licence to use his field would create the sort of nuisance that in fact occurred.

The Master of the Rolls delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Evans.

Solicitors: Gerald A. Waller & Co. Solicitors & Harrison, Northampton.

MR JOHN F. M. Maxwell, who did not appear below, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Christopher Hodson for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE ROUGHIER, giving the judgment of the court, said that the case against the appellant at the trial had depended almost entirely on the correctness of the complainant's identification.

The reality of the appellant's appearance and physical characteristics had differed from the descriptions given in a number of important respects.

The court was firmly of the view that the appellant should have

been advised in the strongest possible terms that it was highly desirable that he should give evidence in order to underline those discrepancies.

The appellant's counsel at the trial had accepted that he had done nothing to try to wear the appellant from his reluctance to testify. Unhappily, in the court's view, that in combination with the absence of any supporting evidence, had to be stigmatised as a grave error.

The very nature of the prosecution evidence had rendered the arguments in favour of direct rebuttal overwhelming. At the very least, evidence from others who could have dealt with those matters should have been made available. The appellant had had a far from feeble positive case which had never been presented to the jury.

The court was acutely aware that the circumstances in which it was entitled to overrule a jury's verdict when the grounds advanced consisted wholly or substantially of criticisms of defence counsel's conduct of the trial had to be of necessity extremely rare.

It had been doubted whether counsel's conduct of the trial could ever be categorised as a material irregularity: see *R v Gaultam* (The Times March 4, 1987).

Archbold, *Pleading, Evidence and Practice in Criminal Cases*

wording of section 2(1)(a) of the 1968 Act.

Mr Maxwell had rightly urged that it was basically to the wording of the subsection itself that the court had to look.

It had to be emphasised that where counsel had made decisions in good faith after proper consideration of the competing arguments and, where appropriate, after discussion with his client, such decisions could not possibly be said to render a subsequent verdict unsafe or unsatisfactory. Particularly that applied to the decision as to whether or not to call the defendant.

Conversely and, it was emphasised, exceptionally, where it was shown that the decision had been taken either in defiance of or without proper instructions, or when all the promptings of reason and good sense had pointed the other way, it might be open to an appellate court to set aside the verdict by reason of the terms of section 2(1)(a) of the 1968 Act.

It was probably less helpful to approach the problem via the somewhat semantic exercise of trying to assess the qualitative value of counsel's alleged ineptitude, but rather to seek to assess its effect on the trial and the verdict according to the terms of the subsection.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, West Midlands.







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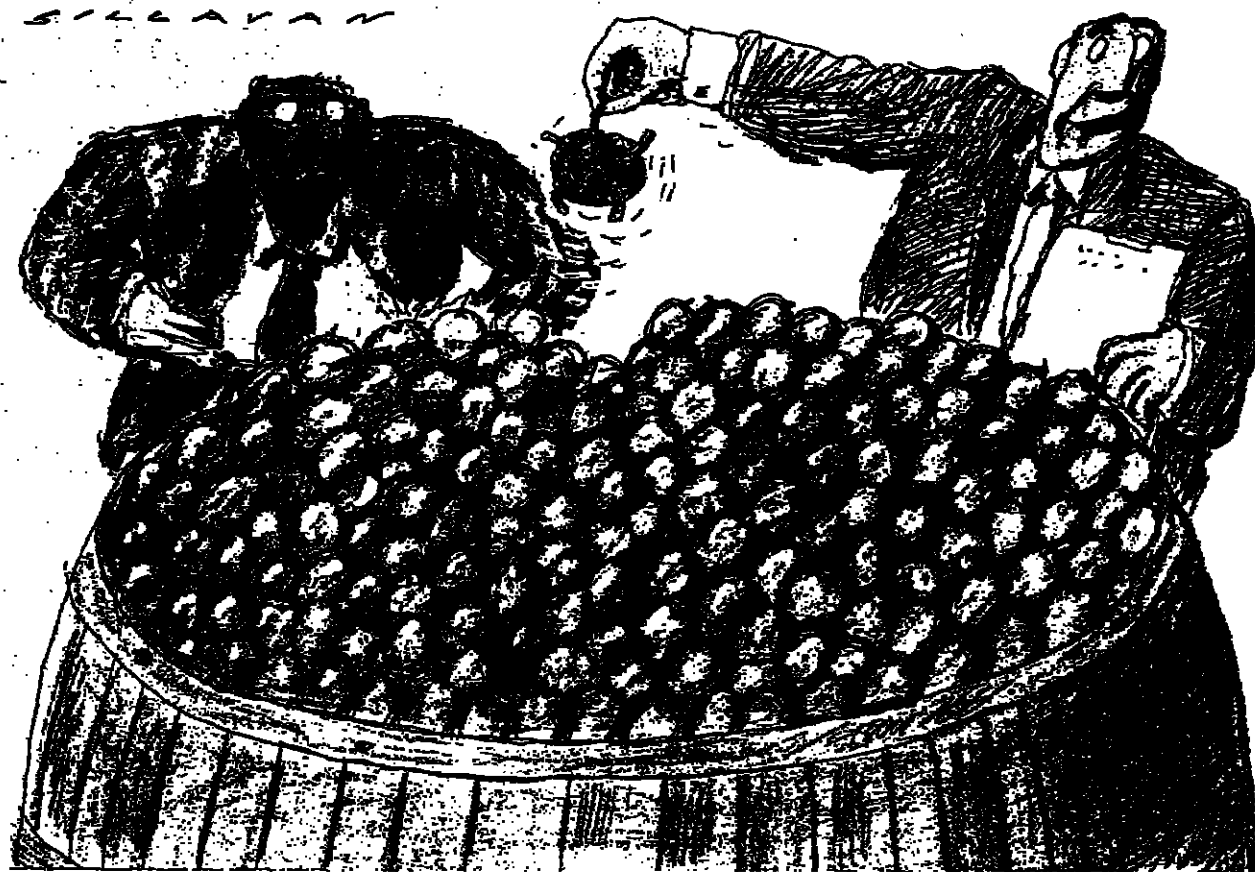
BY SARAH BAGNALL

A LAWSUIT involving a small firm of accountants has raised fears that clients who are defrauded by their accountants will not be able to recover money from the insurers of the accountancy firm. Aggrieved clients would have to rely on the partners of the firm paying from their own pockets, which could leave the clients of small practices with little chance of redress for a big loss. The accountancy profession lacks a central fund for firms' clients to call upon, unless the fraud relates to investment business.

Sparking the fear is the attempt by an insurer to declare void a professional indemnity insurance contract taken out for all three partners in an accountancy firm, because of dishonest activities by one of them. The claimant in the case, which was settled out of court last week, was a well-known Queen's counsel.

The case centred on the activities of Martin Coyers, a chartered accountant and partner in Bingham Coyers & Co, a west London firm of accountants, who has already served an 18-month prison sentence for misappropriating funds. In 1991, Mr Coyers pleaded guilty to defrauding Rosemary Robinson, an executor of an estate, of £52,000, none of which has been repaid. The loss was a double blow to Mrs Robinson. She had placed the money in the care of Mr Coyers after a payment from the Law Society's compensation fund to recompense her for being defrauded by her solicitor.

In contrast with the practice of the Law Society, Mrs Robinson has not been reimbursed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. The institute has an investment busi-



ness compensation scheme but this does not cover funds put on deposit, as in her case.

In last week's case, insurers employed new arguments to try to show that the firm's remaining partners were not covered for the misdeeds of their colleague. The case highlights the need for a central fund and an overhaul of insurance policy wording.

Richard Valentine, a partner at Pitmans, the law firm acting for the QC, said most accountants' professional indemnity insurance policies may not protect partners or clients against a fraud by one

partner, if these arguments are found to be sound.

Special clauses in PI contracts, which are required by the institute, would no longer protect the policies of innocent partners within a firm. This would make nonsense of the institute's aim of ensuring that a material non-disclosure or fraud by one partner does not leave the public unprotected.

Mr Valentine is concerned by the insurer's use of the argument that "each partner is an agent for all the other partners". The outcome suggests that the insurance cover would be valid only in limited

situations. "That is when a fraud is committed, discovered and claims made within the same policy year," Mr Valentine said. Insurers would be able to deny liability when a fraud takes place before the insurance declaration, which gives details on a firm, is made on behalf of a partnership.

Emile Woolf, chairman of the institute's practice insurance requirements committee, argues that policies would be voided only in specific circumstances. Insurers have a case, he said, if an innocent partner signs the insurance declaration after a fraud has surfaced

and a fraudulent partner had signed a previous year's declaration having already committed the fraud. In that case, the firm had the chance to tell the insurance company, so material non-disclosure has taken place.

Mr Valentine said the new arguments used by insurers are set to catch accountants unaware, unless steps are taken quickly to remedy defects in policies. Otherwise, hundreds of accountancy firms and their clients may find themselves without insurance against fraud by one of their partners.

## Exchange backroom boys are out of step

A SENIOR partner in one of the largest accountancy firms said recently: "I always try to avoid meetings if they involve people from the stock exchange. They're a complete waste of space." At the very least, this suggests a lack of confidence in what ought to be an influential body. However, developments on several fronts recently have only confirmed what the accountancy profession has feared for years. The stock exchange does not like being a major player in the checks and balances that keep the City and the corporate sector intact. If it can avoid its responsibilities, it will do so.

To the wider business public, the obvious issue of the moment is the exchange's wish to rid itself of its ailing nephew, the unlisted securities market. But its record on bringing pressure to bear on transgressors of the accounting profession's rules on financial reporting and in its feeble support for current initiatives on corporate governance have also underlined the lack of backbone.

Price Waterhouse's recent survey of the views of chairmen of USM companies showed clearly what was required. In the simplest of language, it said "The stock exchange's proposal to close the USM comes at a low point in the USM's 12-year history. However, as economic activity increases, the case for a second market will re-emerge as growth companies seek a low cost, low regulation market for raising further capital."

In formulating its plans for the USM, we believe the stock exchange should assume a presumption of economic growth and look to the future needs of middle market and growth companies." Then the firm backed up those words with facts and figures from its survey.

The same view comes from venture capitalists. Ronald Cohen, of Apex Partners, sees it as three simple stages: "Job creation is largely dependent on smaller companies. Smaller companies are largely dependent on venture capitalists. Venture capitalists are largely dependent on an effective second market."

The stock exchange's view in its survey was that it wanted to "close the USM and establish an identifiable smaller companies sector" within the ordinary full listing. It is now mulling over the responses to its ideas. But the likelihood of it being shifted from its underlying instinct of getting rid of its responsibilities seems unlikely.

The same line has run through much of its dealings on financial reporting and corporate governance. It has always been, at best, a reluctant partner in trying to improve matters. The only time it almost did something useful was more than a decade ago. Amid mounting concern that companies were avoiding the accounting standards laid down by the accountancy profession to bring about reliable financial reporting, a plan was put

together to police the system effectively. Unlike the present independent system, administered by the financial reporting council, the previous effort relied heavily on voluntary acceptance. Auditors could, and did, qualify accounts for transgressions. But companies, as ever, were adept at producing arcane reasons why they, and not the auditors, were correct.

An effective policing system was essential. Solid public pressure from the stock exchange was required. A plan to create a triumvirate of Bank of England, stock exchange and accountancy profession to act as enforcer was hatched.

The profession was greatly helped in this by the fact that, at the time, one of its most influential members, Lord Benson, was adviser to the Governor of the Bank.

In the end, the plan foundered because the certified accountants, in the midst of some opaque inter-professional squabble, vetoed it. But throughout the planning process it had been the stock exchange that was having to be dragged or prodded towards taking any responsibility for ensuring that the information issued by the companies that it listed was conforming to the rules of disclosure.

Now, to bring it all up to date, we have the same spectacle over corporate governance. At the annual awards for published accounts, which, after all, are sponsored by the three chartered institutes of accountants and the stock exchange, the same gulf between the flannel and the facts was apparent. Sir Adrian Cadbury was the main speaker. Talking of his committee's proposals on corporate governance and the importance of companies complying with its recommended code of conduct, he laid great emphasis on "the crucial importance of the London Stock Exchange making the statement of compliance a continuing listing obligation".

His heart must have sunk on hearing the chairman of the stock exchange's speech. Sir Andrew Hugh Smith came up with the appropriate flannel. "The health of the capital markets depends, in part, on making investors feel that they can invest with confidence," he argued.

But, when it came to commenting on the Cadbury corporate governance system and the exchange's role in helping to fight to enforce it, it was a different story. Again eschewing any responsibilities, he announced that on that issue "we're amongst the backroom boys".

If the stock exchange refuses to play a central role in ensuring compliance, then, as senior members of the accountancy profession make clear, you wonder what sort of central role it wishes to play in anything.

The author is the associate editor of Accountancy Age



ROBERT BRUCE

## Change of approach is needed on insolvency law, rather than reform

From Mr Philip Pink

Sir, As one closely involved in the formulation of the government policy that underlay the Insolvency Act 1986, may I comment on the articles by Roger Gregory and Tim Olsen (Accountancy, March 4).

Central to the purposes of this multi-faceted law was the encouragement of corporate recovery. It was intended to help preserve and re-organise viable businesses and introduced alternatives to the finality of liquidation for insolvent companies — notably administration orders and voluntary arrangements. The former was intended in part as a vehicle for the latter.

The act elaborated the Review Committee's concept that, through the administration process, the perceived benefits of receivership should be made available for dealing with companies in financial difficulty whose lenders did not have, or wish to exercise, the power to appoint receivers. It is a matter of great regret that the new voluntary arrangement for companies has been used much less widely than that successfully adopted on many occasions for individuals as an alternative to bankruptcy.

Why is there this disparity? It is clear that a moratorium preventing action by creditors except with the leave of the court, while proposals for a settlement of debts are put together, is found more difficult to achieve for a company than it is for an individual.

Whether the process for achieving this end through a petition or an administration order need be carried out in a complex way is open to serious

doubt. For instance, an independent practitioner's report on the company's affairs in not a statutory obligation, although an explanation for its absence must be provided to the court.

As another instance, no creditor, other than one entitled to appoint an administrative receiver, may appear or be represented at the hearing of the petition, except with the leave of the court.

Legislators envisaged that the new administration procedure would be readily accessible to companies in need. Generally, it would be of short-term duration and conducted by a qualified insolvency practitioner whose fitness would be assured by the newly introduced licensing regime.

The administrator's proposals for a voluntary arrangement, or other purpose set out in the administration order by which he was appointed, would be submitted to creditors for approval within three months, with recourse to the court if necessary. A balance was thus thought to be achieved between the immediate interests of creditors and the desirability of retaining viable businesses with associated employment opportunities.

I submit that what is now needed is not a change in the insolvency law but merely a change of approach. I hope such a change will soon be accomplished. Yours faithfully, P. D. PINK (Formerly deputy inspector general, policy, Department of Trade and Industry Insolvency Service Division, 1981-8), 90, Falcon Point, Bankside, SE1.

## Budgeting for a new route to more jobs

By ALEC REED

THE Chancellor is taking the wrong route on tax. In his Autumn Statement, he announced an increase in the initial capital allowances available for plant and machinery to 40 per cent in an attempt to stimulate new investment in the economy. It has also been rumoured that we are in line for an increase in income tax this year. These two measures will each have a disastrous effect on employment — we should be reducing both capital allowances and income tax.

If the government wants to reduce consumption of particular products, such as cigarettes, it taxes them. If it wants to increase consumption of products it subsidises them. The first rule of economics shows that demand reduces when price increases and vice versa. Yet a government whose first concern should be reducing unemployment is taxing labour and subsidising automation, its direct competitor.

Basic rate income tax plus national insurance contributions impose a surcharge on the net wage received of more than 40 per cent at the margin. As the pit closure proposals illustrated, wages are largely a fixed national cost and not an opportunity for national economy. Where people are not working, it is accepted that the state must support them when needed. Some unemployed people are paid way above the average wage by the state. Some receive more than they did, after tax, in the job from which they were made redundant.

Apart from the estimated £25 billion a year direct cost of unemployment, taxpayers are spending billions on imaginative schemes to train, support

and place individuals back in work. Sadly, few are anything but palliative in an economy bereft of work opportunities. Such schemes suit an economy in change rather than stagnation.

With heavy redundancies announced daily and signs that the social security system is on the brink of collapse, surely it is time to re-examine the basics.

The rush to automation has passed logic. Labour is a domestic resource of which we have a mountain. More and more machinery is imported.

Where is the logic in imposing labour taxes on domestic products and not their imported alternatives? Why should American companies buying our goods effectively pay towards our National Insurance system when their own system cannot support its population?

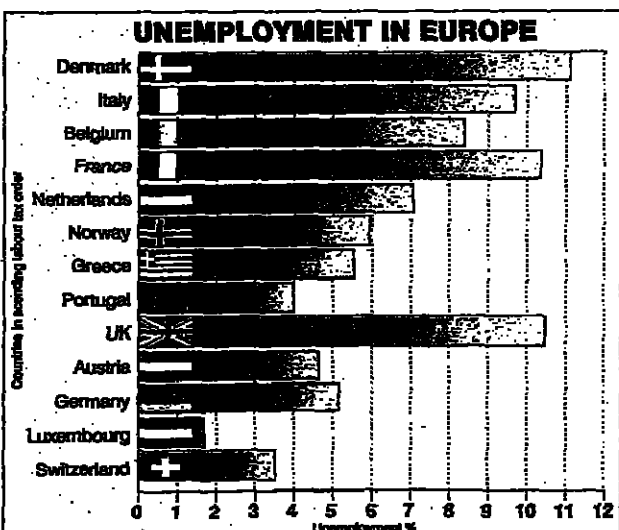
In many instances, the demand for human activity would be increased by relieving it of tax as the factor in input which carries the extra burden. Lost revenue will have to be replaced but should be levied equally over all the components of commercial activity. This suggests increases in both VAT and by corporation tax, although a profits or costs tax may be more appropriate.

Switching tax away from labour could also bring the end of the black economy at a stroke. The more menial jobs would become accessible to the less gifted. At present, these jobs are often taken by capable individuals who either legally or illegally do not pay income tax.

Temporary vacancies would be filled by nationals rather than Australian temps who, in effect, pay no income tax because they enjoy a year's tax-free allowance for a three-month stay. We also employ schoolchildren part-time, who are attractive to employers for the same reason — they pay no income tax. Is it right that these very able young people should be preferred and favoured by the government against their less able competitors who have a greater necessity to find employment?

Policy-makers should look at the labour market afresh. The cost in human misery, social instability and stagnation of the economy are too great for us to continue as we are. The author, chairman of Reed Executive, is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and professor of enterprise and innovation, Royal Holloway, University of London.

JON ASHWORTH



## Banks lack the caring touch

LAST week we showed that not everyone hates the banks. This week, it's back to normal. Nine out of ten respondents in a survey by the South Eastern Society of Chartered Accountants said banks were neither helpful nor sympathetic to small businesses. Secsa has 7,000 members in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, where small firms have been worst hit by recession. They sound depressed. Only 9 per cent thought recovery was around the corner. Most believe an improvement is 18 months away. The gloomy majority that take such a dim view of banks and the econ-

omy had a similarly overwhelming message for their own profession. A "staggering" nine out of ten felt the image of chartered accountants could be improved. What is it with these accountants from the balm stock broker belt? Can anyone cheer them up?

SIGN of the times? The new chairman of the English Institute's tax technical committee is Adam Broke.

Weasel words

A TIP for the ad-men and women: do not underesti-

mate your audience. Price Waterhouse has delved into the murky waters of recruitment advertising and found that jargon and glossy affects are an instant turn-off. Weary job-seekers are fed up with words like dynamic, proactive, forward thinking, visionary and all those other fashionable things recruiters think they ought to be. Worse still, descriptions such as growing company, challenges and exciting opportunities are being interpreted as a signal that the advertiser is going bust. Good training for budding insolvency practitioners — but not much else.

## Name game

YET another fascinating insight into how the Chinese view the invasion by Western firms of accountants... In 1917, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu International opened an office in Shanghai. Well actually, it was Haskins & Sells, the American firm at the centre of the group whose name has bizarrely been lost in the mergers, just as the British name of Deloitte has been lost in Britain. Taking a literal translation of the Chinese characters, says DRT, Haskins & Sells was interpreted as "The Great American Accounting Firm". Who are we to know any better?

JON ASHWORTH

## Taxing forex gains and losses



Murray: plea for more time

permit foreign currency borrowings to be matched with a company's investment in shares in foreign subsidiaries.

The purpose is to allow a group to hedge against fluctuations in the value of foreign assets included in its consolidated balance sheet without triggering tax charges year by year. Differences on matched borrowings will be taxed as capital and only to the extent of realisation of the matched asset or borrowing.

The difficulty with such a complex system is that an apparently insignificant technical detail can, in practice, make it unlikely to achieve its objective. According to the Inland Revenue, the matching rules, to be dealt with in detail in as yet unpublished regulations, will work on a company by company basis.

This could cause endless problems. A group will want to match foreign assets in its consolidated balance sheet but it will instead only be able to elect to match on a company by company basis.

A UK-resident holding company in a group will have

to match its foreign currency borrowings with its shareholdings in foreign subsidiaries. It will need to ensure, so far as possible, that the value of these shares in its balance sheet reflects the value of the subsidiary's underlying net assets as shown in the group's consolidated balance sheet. This is not as easy as it sounds.

More importantly, the holding company will not want to borrow from third parties and pay interest because the matching of the UK system for taxing foreign dividends may mean that full credit relief is not obtained for foreign taxes. The holding company will prefer to borrow interest free from the group's treasury company, which will in turn borrow from third parties.

This is where the technicality comes in. Anti-abuse rules will deny current loss relief on non-arm's length arrangements, such as an interest-free loan, and will not normally apply within a UK tax group. They will nonetheless apply to fluctuating balances.

In practice, fluctuating interest-free balances are exactly what would be needed between the holding and treasury company. As a result, the holding company could make its matching election, but the treasury company would be exposed to a capricious taxation regime.

The main reason for introducing new legislation on the taxation of foreign exchange differences (and of financial instruments, expected soon), was to avoid such capricious effects, which were the corporate treasurer's bane. But problems of detail can ruin the intended effect.

The Inland Revenue should allow time to consider and extend the deadline for consultation beyond the end of March. This legislation is too important to rush into the next Finance Bill.

Companies need to consider the implications for their own affairs now. In future, it will be even more important for the tax and treasury functions to work together closely. To take best advantage of the options of the new regime and transitional rules, companies may well also need to upgrade their information systems significantly.

The author is International Tax Partner at Ernst & Young



**THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE**

[illegible]

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

[illegible]

## STUDIES

of market	Greece drachma	319.00-326.00	Germany	1.6558-1.6563	
of market	Hong Kong dollar	11.0664-11.0786	Hong Kong	7.7360-7.7370	
	India rupee	44.75	Ireland	1.6558-1.6563	
	Kuwait dinar KD	0.4346-0.446	Italy	118.01-118.08	
	Malaysia ringgit	3.7313-3.7374	Japan	118.01-118.08	
	Mexican peso	4.43-4.53	Netherlands	2.0517-2.0525	
	New Zealand dollar	2.7107-2.7162	Norway	1.8722-1.8727	
	Saudi Arabia riyal	3.512-3.638	Portugal	153.95-154.05	
	Singapore dollar	2.3582-2.3619	Spain	164.86-164.96	
	Africa rand (R)	6.5113-6.5596	Sweden	118.53-119.60	
	U.A.R. new pound	4.5602-4.5667	Switzerland	7.61507-7.6230	
	S.A.E. dirham	5.503-5.527		1.5363-1.5373	
	Banque Bank GTS * Lloyd's Bank				
MONEY RATES					
Base Rates Clearing Banks & Finance Hse 7					
Discount Market Loan Origin Right: 7      Low 6%      Week fixt: 6%					
Treasury Bills (Days): 2 mth 5%; 3 mth 5%. Sell: 2 mth 5%; 3 mth: 5%					
Prime Bank Bill (Bid):					
	3m	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Sterling Money Rates:	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %
Lombard:	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %
Overnight: open 6 c, close 5.					
Local Authority Dep:					
Sterling CDs:	6	R/R	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %
Dollar CDs:	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %
Floating Society CDs:	3.11	n/a	3.13	3.22	3.44
	0+0	6+6%	5+5%	5+5%	5+5%
ECED: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up date: Feb 26, 1993 Agreement runs Mar 24, 1993 to April 25, 1993 Scheme I: 7.5% & Scheme II & III: 7.47 %					
Jan 20, 1993 to Feb 26, 1993 Scheme IV & V: 6.22% up					
EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)					
Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %
Deutschmark:	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %
French Franc:	11-11	11-11	11-11	11-11	11-11
Swiss Franc:	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %
Yen:	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> %
GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS MARKET					
London Gold Fixing - 10.30 AM (L) 10.30 AM (S)					
Bullion: Open \$326.40-\$326.60      Close: \$326.30-\$326.60      High: \$327.20-\$327.70 Low: \$325.10-\$325.60      Kinkedness: \$325.00-\$327.00      (\$230.00-\$240.00)					
Sovereigns: Gold \$77.00-\$79.00 (\$23.00-\$40.00)      New Strips \$77.00 (\$72.00-\$80.00)					
Platinum: \$245.50 (\$241.10)      Silver: \$3.60 (\$2.51)      Palladium: \$103.75 (\$72.40)					



**THEATRE** page 36  
Jeffery Kissoon is  
Othello in a new, visually  
arresting production at  
Birmingham Repertory

# ARTS

## **BIOGRAPHY** page 37

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What has caused the flood of contradictory new books about Winston Churchill?

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## CINEMA: Geoff Brown salutes Sally Potter's *Orlando*, a remarkable adaptation from Virginia Woolf

# Time-traveller in search of herself

A British director has enough difficulty getting a movie without closing a cinematically intractable Virginia Woolf novel about a young Elizabethan aristocrat who continues living, scarcely aging, into the present, changing sex from male to female somewhere around 1700. Yet Sally Potter, previously known for her forbidding feminist tract *Orlando*, and *Wuthering* director Peter Greenaway, valiantly stick to her guns, survived a hazardous journey, and *Wuthering* is a work of diversion, rich in fancy, intelligence, formal games, riotous wigs and Afghan hounds, fit to set beside the best imaginings of Peter Greenaway and Derek Jarman.

Financing the project required patience, nerve and a global reach: outside Britain, investment came from Lenfilm in St Petersburg, France, Italy and The Netherlands. When money fell short, the cast and crew chipped in. Alongside the conjuring tricks of producer Christopher Sheppard, Sally Potter and her main screen team practised their own magic. For an elaborate movie crammed with literary conceits, but ill-equipped with literary culture, Potter carved a workable script; she also gathered the appropriate faces, the fantastic doings and scenery to turn Woolf's intricate paragraphs into characters and images that light up the screen.

Tilda Swinton's contribution as Orlando is crucial. Hers is a face that the camera loves; and Russian cameraman Alexei Rodionov wastes no time in worshipping the pellucid skin and expressive eyes of this androgynous, ginger-haired lad who earns the patronage of Elizabeth I and sallies forth down the decades, seeking happiness and love. The sex change occurs after Orlando, serving as ambassador in Central Asia, becomes caught in battle. "The same person, no difference at all," she proclaims; "just a different sex."

This is not society's view. As Orlando sins enveloped in one of costume designer Sandy Powell's dazzling dresses, Pope, Addison and the wits dismiss women's intellectual and moral qualities as lesser hire and property. Later still, in the Docklands era (Potter takes a few liberties with Woolf's text), Orlando stands alone, finally harrow with herself.

It is a strange, beguiling tale, originally written in an outpouring of affection for Woolf's friend Vita Sackville-West. One possible drawback to Potter's version is that she leaves the audience with few ideas to take home. Thoughts about sexual politics and British history tend to get dwarfed by visual splendours such as the frozen Thames of 1610 (a triumph for designers Ben Van

**Orlando**  
Lumiere, Screen on  
the Hill, PG  
**Scent of a Woman**  
Empire, 15  
**A Song for Beke**  
ICA Cinema

Os and Jan Roefs, Greenaway veterans), and the acting cameos. Quentin Crisp with withered, rouged cheeks as Elizabeth I and Ned Sherrin in mustard yellow as Addison are sights to make you snln.

Yet the disappointment is only mild. Too many aspiring British directors have burnt their fingers on adventurous high-profile projects: Potter, coming from the left field, made the breakthrough in

**'A wonderful  
diversion, rich  
in fancy and  
intelligence'**

tremendous style, and has done Virginia Woolf's novel proud.

Al Pacino sits enthroned, hair swept back, forehead lined, eyes glazed, his voice a deep rasp. The words, usually crude and insulting, come punctured by a bark of a laugh. He is blind, bitterly blind; a retired army lieutenant from what he describes as a "sparrow fart town", spending a raucous Thanksgiving weekend in New York with an earnest prep school minder with problems of his own.

Above everything else, he is Al Pacino; and when Pacino, lord of the Method, decides to play blind and inescapable we must all run for cover. The trouble is that in *Scent of a Woman* there is no place to hide. Just as Chris O'Donnell's prep school pup becomes tied to this ogre hour upon hour in Manhattan's Waldorf-Astoria hotel, so we feel imprisoned with an overhearing star for 156 minutes.

They are long minutes, too. Martin Brest, the film's director and progenitor, is a gifted chap, but brevity is not one of his strengths. In Hollywood terms this is a "relationships" movie: maybe that justifies the snail's crawl. Yet Bo Goldsman's script, derived at some distance from Dino Risi's 1974

film *Profumo di Donna*, never uses the ample time to create rounded characters worth taking to heart. Who cares if the scowling Pacino thaws a little under O'Donnell's aegis? And despite his gentle, good-humoured performance, who cares if O'Donnell, due for a school disciplinary hearing, rats on his friends or keeps loyally mum and jeopardises a place at Harvard?

Brest and company struggle mightily to make us concerned: the final scenes, back at the prep school, tug at our emotions with shameless theatrical tricks. The film works best when it stops barnstorming and relaxes: take the scene when Pacino turns on the charm for a young woman waiting in the hotel restaurant, and scoops her up in a delicious tango. For once, there is real movie magic in the air.

Too often, though, *Scent of a Woman* seems ponderous and contrived: a slim tale inflated by excess footage, a sense of self-importance and a showy, unyielding star turn. Just the film, in fact, to hoodwink Oscar voters. There are four nominations: Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Director and Best Screenplay Adaptation.

**I**f Oscars were given for forceful simplicity, *A Song for Beko* would be a major contender. Nizаметzin Aric's powerful film, touted as the first Kurdish-language cinema feature released in Britain, never wastes time on script complications or frilly images. Spare, eloquent shots of faces and landscapes thrust us into the plight of Beko, a Kurd from Turkey trying to locate his mother, a military deserter in Iraqi Kurdistan. As he waits among refugees from the Iran-Iraq war clustered on the mountainside, he befriends the children, pet turtle included, cuts their hair and learns their hopes and fears. The outcome for all is bleak.

port, an actor and musician (he plays guitar to himself with gentle plucking), fled Turkey for Berlin in 1981, after a short prison term for speaking Kurdish in public. This German-Armenian production, beautifully shot on Armenian locations by Thomas Mauch, is his first film as director. Others might have let rage for their wounded people and dismembered homeland boil over into cinematic chaos; Aric's restraint gives his film a much greater chance of stirring the emotions and explaining the Kurdish predicament to the outside world. The film forms part of "The Living Fire", London's first festival of Kurdish arts and culture (details from World Circuit Arts, 081-3907960).



A face whose pellucid skin and expressive eyes the camera loves: Tilda Swinton as the hero/heroine of Sally Potter's *Orlando*

## Meeting of minds and hearts

**Michael Wright**  
went to Lithuania  
with a British youth  
group performing  
there by invitation

**V**ilnius in the winter is a bleak site, as uninviting as a frozen TV-dinner. The snow-covered landscape is marked by the city's brutish skyline; it is very white, very cold and very grim.

There was to follow the progress of a youth theatre group from Devon called Unit 108, a bunch of 15- to 19-year-olds who had caught the attention of a Lithuanian delegation at the National Theatre during last year's Lloyd's Bank Theatre Challenge. Now they were invited to perform their breezily physical production of Marlowe's *Dr Faustus* at Vilnius's State Theatre, and an adaptation of Dante's *Inferno* with 22 young Lithuanians. Theatrical performances in Lithuania are generally treated with a respect that borders on the religious. According to Irena Veisate, a distinguished academic and theatre critic: "Although churches existed during Soviet occupation, it was dangerous to be seen to be wandering, so the theatre was really the only place where you could talk and think about human values and not be punished for it."

As Soviet repression began to die away, so did audiences at the theatre. Still, Unit 108's sheer novelty value was enough to draw a packed



**Fake money, genuine enthusiasm: a scene from Unit 108's *Dr Faustus* in Vilnius**

house at the State Theatre, and their *Dr Faustus* went down well. The play proved an apt choice for an audience in the process of surrendering themselves to the black-market devilry of capitalism, and anxious about losing their own souls in the process.

Afterwards, I watched a trio of young Lithuanians sidle up to the stage to examine the wad of spondulicks that Faustus had scattered to the winds in his hour of despair. With pained expressions they fingered the toy-town banknotes, printed more finely and on superior paper to the so-called "zoo money" of their own national currency. Presumably they thought they were genuine, each fake fiver the equivalent of two weeks' wages for the average Lithuanian.

Several days later, Unit 108's director Stephen Powell was grappling with *Inferno*, watching it grow and change almost hourly. "What's your plan?" asked one of the Lithuanian children nervously, after a couple of days of workshops. "My plan is to perform *Inferno* on Saturday," replied a deadpan Powell.

Admittedly, by the time the audience began to filter into the State Theatre, the show was only just ready for a first run-through. But as Veisate pointed out: "It really doesn't matter whether Stephen and the children create a really outstanding performance, or merely a very good one. What counts is that they all lived together in a spirit of creativeness, on a human level as much as an artistic one."

In the end, the performance of *Inferno* transcended everyone's expectations: a rapt audience received it with a mixture of gasps at its visual impact and guffaws at its inky satire. Then came the speeches; Powell pointed out that what we had seen was a work-in-progress, to be developed in the summer when the Lithuanian children come to Britain. Thanks to the impact of Powell's rehearsals, and to a

Powers' releases, and to a seminar on British drama-teaching given by the National Theatre's Suzi Graham. Adriani, a group of Lithuanian teachers were beginning to make plans for incorporating drama into their national curriculum. And: the power of theatre to affect peoples' lives had been powerfully revealed, if only for a brief moment.

WHAT is the world's shortest opera? According to the Guinness Book of World Records it is Darius Milhaud's 1923 work, *La Délivrance de Thésée*, which once clocked in at 7 minutes 22 seconds. But later this month an attempt will be made in Cardiff to break this pithy record. Peter Reynolds's *The Sands of Time* will be staged at The Old Library in The Hayes, Cardiff, on March 27, as part of Cardiff's "Arts Open Day".

The composer estimates that if Carlo Wili, the music director of the National Opera, adopts his customary brisk tempos, this *magnum opus* may well break the four-minute barrier. Reynolds's opera: husband and wife boil an egg, argue, learn they have won the pools and live happily ever after.

● **LEDGBURY** Town Council, in Herefordshire, was one of the more unlikely beneficiaries from the £3.8 million largesse handed out by The John Paul Getty Trust, according to the Trust's annual report. The money went to 121 individuals and institutions in 28 countries, and includes 34 grants worth almost £400,000 to institutions in central and eastern Europe, in order "to help preserve cultural heritage in the region during its period of transition".

Among the awards are one to the Louvre in Paris, to create a computerised catalogue of its collection of Attic red-figure cups, and £36,000 to the Victoria and Albert Museum for an interpretative video in the new Frank Lloyd Wright Room. Twelve paintings at the Dulwich Picture Gallery were conserved with

## Not over till the fast lady sings?

the help of Getty Trust money, and the historic Market House in Ledbury was given a grant of £12,471 to pay for renovations.

## ARTS BRIEFING

## Yankee doodles

shows at the Brighton Festival during May.

## Last chance . . .

**PHILIPPE GENTY's** latest dance piece, *Forget Me Not*, journeys through the subconscious: the illogical ever-changing underworld of sexual fears and fantasies. Identikit women passionately tango with man-size flaccid puppets in tuxedos: male dancers hop about in foam-rubber penises. Some clown routines are overlong and Genty's separate scenarios may not finally cohere, but this is a visually riveting piece (Sadler's Wells, 071-278 8916, until Sunday).







# Blood, toil, tears and biography

The current flood of Churchill studies shows the lasting fascination of an elusive figure, writes Robert Rhodes James

There are occasions in publishing and historiography when, for no particular reason, a subject suddenly becomes popular. For a time it seemed that the tide of books about Harold Nicolson, Vita Sackville-West, Virginia Woolf and their circle was going to engulf readers and reviewers to the point when this one declared that he never wanted to read another book on the topic. Now, inexplicably, we have a surge of Churchill books, after a relatively silent period only broken by the regular thud of Martin Gilbert's immense volumes of the official biography. Gilbert then followed up with an abbreviated version, which itself turned out to be yet another door-stopper.

There were, of course, William Manchester and Richard Hough, of which the less said the better, and Henry Pelling's very conventional biography. But now we have had John Charmley's perverse study, the Robert Blake and Roger Louis collection of Churchillian studies, to which I was a contributor, and Paul Addison, who has just published a particularly interesting study of Churchill's social policies. A work by Richard Lamb is also on its way. There are rumours, not ill-founded, of others at work on new analyses.

I may have, unwittingly, begun the process of revisionism by my *Churchill - A Study in Failure, 1900-1939*, first published in 1970, on which Charmley, somewhat to my embarrassment, has heaped much praise. In fact, Churchill emerged very well out of it, as his family quickly recognised, but what made it so novel, until Mary Soames's marvellous study of her parents was published, was that it treated Churchill not like an icon but as a fallible human being, an uncomfortable, and often distrustful, genius, with many unattractive features. Bob Boothby's pithy tribute, "Winston was a shit, but we needed a shit to defeat Hitler" may well stand the test of time. Certainly, the undiluted praise that was once almost universal has now been severely diluted - in the case of David Irving, into poison.

The facts are that Churchill was one of the most astonishingly many-faceted men in British history. He was, above all, an ambitious career politician, of whom one could say, as he said of William Harcourt, that he had "his eye fixed, not unerringly,

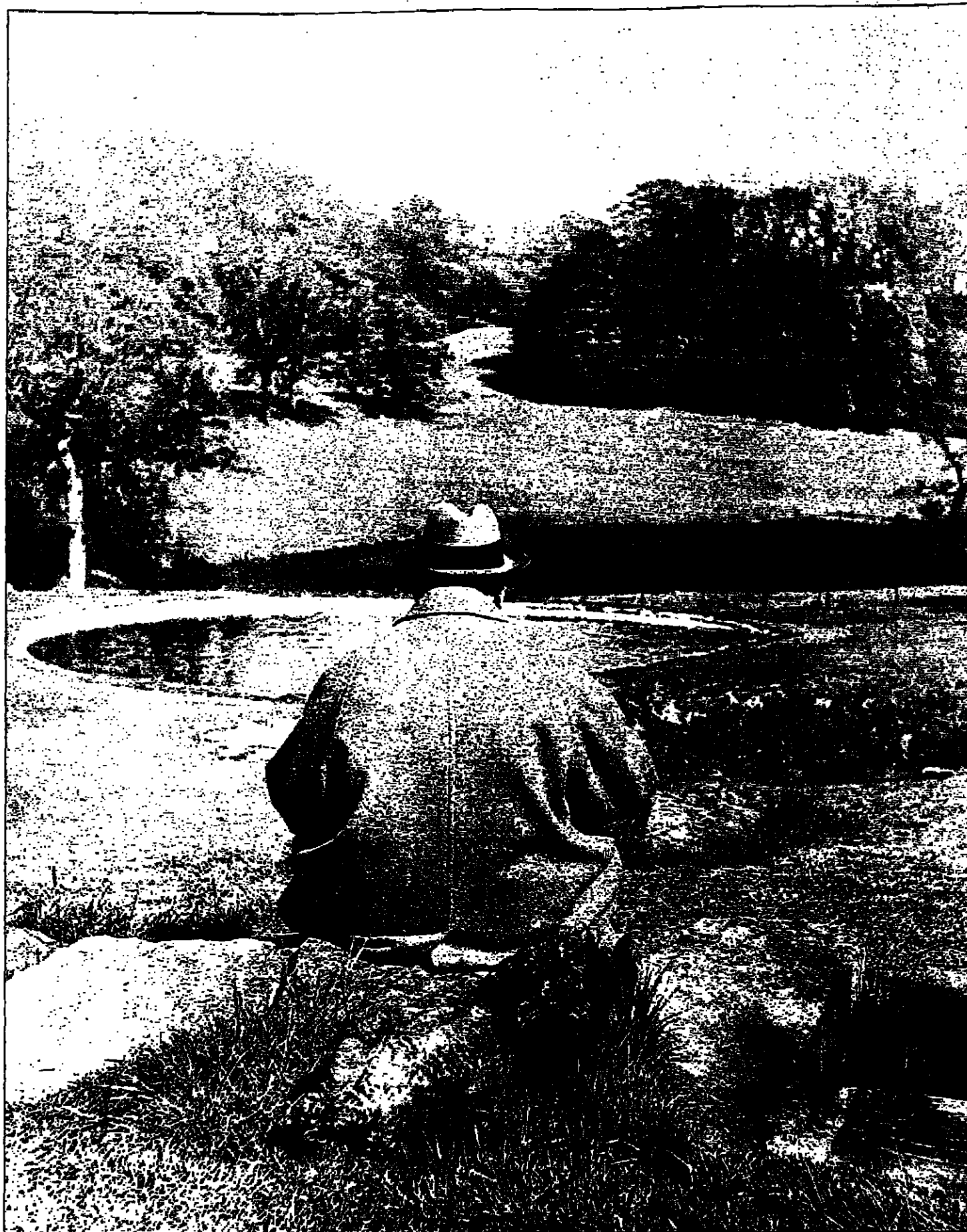
on the main chance". But he was also a superb journalist, essayist, incomparable chronicler of his life and times, biographer, military historian, artist, sportsman, orator, landscape gardener, and one of the greatest conversationalists of his time - if sometimes given to clique was going to engulf readers and reviewers to the point when this one declared that he never wanted to read another book on the topic. Now, inexplicably, we have a surge of Churchill books, after a relatively silent period only broken by the regular thud of Martin Gilbert's immense volumes of the official biography. Gilbert then followed up with an abbreviated version, which itself turned out to be yet another door-stopper.

It is a common theme among Churchill scholars that the official biography was one of the greatest literary and historical missed opportunities of all time.

The format was flawed from the beginning, the theme being that "He shall be his own biographer". The trouble was that he had been so already. Also, as the project enabled volumes of documents to be published, why was it thought necessary to repeat so many of them in the main narrative? There was also a notable absence of critical comment - indeed remarkably little comment at all.

The result is a quarry rather than a biography, and although it faithfully reflects Churchill's prodigious activity and energy, he is effectively dehumanised. Episodes in which he behaved badly (as over his treatment of Boothby) are conveniently omitted; certainly, no reader of this monumental work could realise why Churchill was loathed by so many, and feared by others. To have made Churchill boring was, in its way, a remarkable achievement.

But this does not adequately explain why, as in 1939, "Winston is back". The amount of new information available, or that might now become available at long last, is not such that it provides the solution. No dramatic caches of papers have been discovered, and although some material has surfaced that has affected historical judgments on certain issues, these have tended to be somewhat marginal, while some of the claims of Churchill's detractors - for example, that his radio speeches in 1940 were read by an actor, Norman Shelley - have been proved false. There do remain some interesting gaps in the 1939-45 papers closed to historians, but it seems improbable that they could lead to any major reassessments. The reassessments have in fact



Churchill at Chartwell, his home in Kent, in 1961: "ruthless and egotistical, gentle and sentimental, he was a mass of contradictions"

been new interpretations of known facts, of which the Alan Clark thesis on the desirability of negotiating with Hitler after Dunkirk - based rather flimsily upon the Charmley book - has been the most dramatic, but also the most easy to rebut. Irving's venomous attacks on Churchill from several angles, some highly critical, others less so. As one would expect from his editors, it is a measured series of examinations of certain aspects of Churchill's life and career, but not all.

Here is the problem. Churchill lived so long, and did so much, and spoke and wrote so much, that he poses quite exceptional problems for

his biographers. Also, none has been a politician with the exception of myself, and my political career was hardly in the Churchillian league. Nonetheless, actual experience of the hustings, the House of Commons, and government is useful for a political historian, and even more so in the case of a man whose life was dominated by politics from his childhood, and who had tasted defeat and even disaster rather more than he had triumphs.

It is difficult for an academic without direct political experience to understand what it is actually like to find oneself under fire; to make an unsuccessful speech; to be abused in the press; to suffer disappointment;

to see people of inferior ability and character succeed to office when one has failed. Much nonsense has been written, for example, about Churchill's drinking, without appreciating that politics in his time was a hard-drinking profession, and, also, that people have different ways of coping with stress and depression. Both of which Churchill had to face on many occasions.

His moods were indeed variable, but this was another consequence not only of his personality but the emotional burdens of politics, and especially in war. The detached observer has little understanding of these pressures, which even in peacetime for a backbencher and his

family, can become almost unendurable.

The curious fact is that although Churchill wrote so much about himself, and has had so much written about him, he remains elusive and somehow unreachable. The more we know, the more puzzled we become. He was in a different league to any of his contemporaries, most of whom, whether friend or foe, found him incomprehensible and wholly unpredictable. Historians and biographers have had the same difficulty. Perhaps the mystery will never be resolved, but as the recent spate of books on him demonstrates, the search continues.

## CONCERT

### A brief taste of the best

Philharmonia/  
Marriner  
Festival Hall

Alfred Brendel has set out on his journey through the history of the piano concerto. With three concertos this month and three more as far away as October and November, the series is really little more than a selection of representative greats, placed in chronological order.

Neither the presentation nor the context, in the first concert at least, gave the slightest hint of the didactic or even, it has to be said, the revelatory. The series, clearly, is more in the nature of a connoisseur's taste: Bach's most compact; Mozart's greatest (as received wisdom generally have it); Beethoven's most teasing - and so on, up to Schoenberg (which is hardly where the piano concerto stops).

Brendel's approaches to the Bach F minor (BWV 1056) and the Mozart C minor (K491) were not dissimilar. Neither needed a conductor: in both Brendel took a defining role. It was left to Sir Neville Marriner to assist.

The obvious point to make was the gradual freeing of the keyboard from its continuo role. If anything, Brendel emphasised the continuity rather than the change.

The keyboard part glowed out of Bach's central slow movement, enlivened and set apart by the distinctive tone quality selected by Brendel's fingers. Mozart's central aria was, by contrast, something less than song: more a confident, lucid exchange of views with a prominent and persuasive band of wind players who well earned their final ovation.

Brendel composed his own cadenza in the absence of any written by Mozart himself for the first movement. It was knotty and motive, aptly pointing the way forward for Beethoven to take over, and it occasioned much napping of the great Brendel brow.

The supporting acts of the evening were Britten (*Sea Interludes* from *Peter Grimes*) and George Benjamin (*Ringed by the flat horizon*). It was particularly good to be reminded once again of the work which brought the young Benjamin to prominence at the Proms 13 years ago. With its pungent aural imagination and sure-footed progress through three shifting orchestral textures, this evocation of a desert thunderstorm, by way of T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, looks set to become as accessible and ready a repertoire piece as the Britten.

HILARY FINCH

ROCK: Alan Jackson reviews Tasmin Archer, 'best newcomer' in the Brits awards, at the Town and Country



Tasmin Archer: success seems unlikely to go to her head

## On a fast track to fame

Less than a year ago, Tasmin Archer was a total unknown, playing the Town and Country as a support act, first to Squeeze and then to the former Eagle, Glenn Frey. But things can move fast in the pop world, and by last October, when she appeared as opening act to the American heart throb Curtis Stigers, she was at No 1 with her debut single "Sleeping Satellite".

Since then, her designation as Best Newcomer at last month's Brits has rubber-stamped the 29-year-old Bradfordian's admittance to the star enclosure and here, towards the end of a short British tour, she found herself headlining at that same venue before a capacity crowd of her own fans. Fame seems unlikely to go to her head, however. Archer is a resolutely take-it-

or-leave-it kind of performer, a woman whose style appears unaffected by her rapidly expanding horizons. Despite her sudden success - aided, it must be said, by a most clever marketing campaign executed by her label EMI - there has been no resultant embrace of showbiz niceties: she conversed with her followers only in short, foghorn blasts, and attempted no plugs for her own product, beyond reminding us that all proceeds from her current hit "In Your Care", a song about child abuse, go to the charity Childline.

The result was to focus attention all the more sharply on her big but sometimes unwieldy and dominating voice, and a set-list built largely of material from the introductory album *Great Expectations*. Accordingly, one was reminded again of

what an unlikely heroine Archer is for the British pop industry of the early 1990s.

Her musical vocabulary and that of her co-writers John Hughes and John Beck - here making up two-fifths of a proficient though sometimes plodding backing band - is retrospective but not fashionably so, and often veers uncomfortably towards the power chords and histrionic gestures of vintage Californian AOR. Indeed one previously unheard though still enjoyable song, "Strings of Desire", could even have been a Linda Ronstadt cast-off from the late Seventies. Archer finished strongly, following "Sleeping Satellite" with a rousing "Old Steel Town" and "Lords of the New Church", yet she was unable to dispel all doubts about her potential as a long-distance bet.

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Small cogs in big wheels

Chris Boardman's gold medal in the Barcelona Olympics was all the better for being unexpected. Few of us, to be honest, had ever heard of the man bent double over his carbon-fibre bike who wound himself up to a new world record.

Behind his triumph lay the story of an inventor whose obsession it was to build a faster bike. For a hundred years, bicycles have been made of metal tubes welded together into a triangular frame in the classic pattern. But in the early 1980s Mike Burrows recognised that new materials had rendered the old designs prehistoric. His trouble was finding anybody else who would take him seriously.

Burrows, to judge by last night's QED (BBC 1), is the kind of self-taught engineer who combines great creativity

with a reluctance to fit into conventional organisations. Once, all machines were made by such men, their minds untrammelled by too much education. Today such people cannot easily flourish unless they form an alliance with more hard-headed types who can get the details right and identify the market.

Burrows's idea was far too clever for the bicycle industry, who laughed at him. The British Cycling Federation were more supportive, but there was little they could do while the international rules of cycle-racing were drafted so as to exclude anything original.

The Burrows bike sat on the shelf, an idea before its time. There it might have stayed but for a change in the rules and a chance meeting in a bicycle shop between Burrows and Lotus racing driver Rudi Thomann. Seeing the possibilities, Thomann took the prototype back to Lotus, who recognised in a few seconds what the bicycle industry had failed to see.

By the time the Olympics began, Lotus were convinced Boardman would win the gold. Wind tunnel tests showed that the final design would give him a gain of at least eight to ten seconds over

the 4,000-metre race, enough to annihilate all opposition. And so it proved.

If only more of Britain's engineering developments worked out half as well, we should be much better off than we are today. Yet even in the midst of the triumph there was animosity. Burrows, the lone eccentric with the original idea, had been displaced by an organisation, Lotus, determined to squeeze every ounce of credit for its admirable development work. The split was skated over by QED, and both sides appear to accept it philosophically, but, however inevitable, it seems a shame.

The real test will come in turning the success into a profitable product, a step that has often become a snare. Lotus has a great product, but is it going to set the pattern for the bicycle of the future? Somehow I cannot see us all pedalling along on carbon fibre, though QED did commission Burrows to build a road-going version complete with the gears and brakes that Boardman's lacked.

This was a bright start for the new season of QED, a documentary series (or "strand", as the BBC would have it) that offers science with a human face. John Peel's commentary verged on the lugubrious, but apart from that all was upbeat, including a vivid if bewildering new title sequence.

NIGEL HAWKES

## THE TIMES

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# Ring the fuller minstrel in

Tennyson was the Victorian ideal of a poet, yet his poetry had nothing to do with the life of a celebrity. Peter Ackroyd relishes an amiable and breezy new life of the author of *In Memoriam*

Well, Arthur, I mean to be famous. So Alfred Tennyson told his younger brother, when they were both still children, and it is an early indication of the strength of will which propelled the apparently dreamy and abstracted creature through his long career. He started to compose poetry at the age of eight, and three years later had amassed his lifetime's writing under these headings: "Vol. 1. The Poems of Tennyson. Vol. 2. The Lyrical Poems of Tennyson. Vol. 3. The Prose Writings of Tennyson."

Here in embryo is the author of *Idylls of the King* and, almost from the beginning, he was able to command that euphonious sound which is as much a matter of cadence as of mellow open vowels. It was not his invention — you can hear it throughout English poetry — and it was helped by his early acquaintance with classical literature. Virgil is an obvious influence but Peter Levi, himself a classicist, mentions Ovid and Sappho as well as Theocritus. Tennyson found his home in language.

Victorians believed that they were in the presence of some divining fire. He really came upon the world with the *Poems* of 1832, but not quite in the manner he expected. It was an age characterised by reviewers almost as foolish as our own, and Tennyson was one of those unfortunate writers who are unduly affected by criticism in the public prints. He was, Levi writes, "crushed" by the invective against a volume which included "The Lotus-Eaters" and "The Lady of Shalott"; but no great writer can remain in a semi-recumbent posture for long, and the sudden death of Arthur Hallam in the following year brought him back to his feet (and his metres).

It took him 17 years to write *In Memoriam* and he was still tinkering with it 50 years later — never can a threnody have taken so long to complete but, on the other hand, few have found so large a public. It became the keensake of the 19th century. It did not always elicit quite the right response, and one reviewer apparently believed that this work "was by the affectionate widow of a military man".

Levi's biography is full of such asides and diversions: it is an amiable and almost breezy study which proves that it is not necessary to be solemn about greatness. It is disappointing only when it becomes enmeshed in detail. The difference between a novel and a biography, after all, is this: in a novel one is bound to tell the truth, whereas in a biography one can make things up, by which I mean that the biographer is obliged to impose a pattern upon the narrative of a life in order to establish its meaning. Perhaps, in *Tennyson*, there are too many facts and not quite enough pattern. But Levi has read widely and deeply in the literature of Tennyson's age, and it

is refreshing to come across a biographer who knows more than the collected works of his subject.

That is how he is able to locate him within the full movement of his time, revealing in the process how much Tennyson was part of his period: he was, like Dickens, a great inclusive genius. It is easy to regard him as a poet of the mournful lyric or the Arthurian epic, but his poetry is filled with intimations of theology, natural science and evolutionary theory: while within the cadence of his verse he is able to depict the real life of industrial England. By the time he published his *Poems* of 1842, which includes some of the finest verse of the 19th century, he had proved himself to be, in Levi's words, "a great and a popular poet, illimitably various..." Certainly, he makes most modern English poetry seem very thin gruel indeed.

Within a short time, he had become a grand if not necessarily old man of English letters. Yet throughout his life he was most notable for his innocence and simplicity; there was an infantile streak not very far beneath the surface of his genius. He sucked on his pipe continually, he drank a bottle of port every night, and always ate a portion of apple pie. He remained what many of his friends described as a "great child". But if so, he was one of those strange infants who keep a distance between themselves and the world.

What is most striking about this biography is the extent to which poet and man led separate lives. Levi remarks that "he relied deeply on himself" and there was within his character an inner momentum that rarely connected with his ostensible existence in the world. He does not seem to occupy his life at all, but inhabits some other place where all that matters are words and the sounds of words. And this is a region through which even the most assiduous biographer cannot follow him. "He would have wished," Benjamin Jowett wrote, "that, like Shakespeare, his life might be unknown to posterity." In a sense, as always, he got his wish.

TENNYSON  
By Peter Levi  
Macmillan, £20



Tennyson in 1871, by "Ape" of *Vanity Fair*; his hat, cloak and blue-tinted spectacles caused a stir

# Misery, neat or diluted

James Woodall

NOTHING BUT  
BLUE SKIES

By Thomas McGuane  
Socker & Warburg, £16.99  
STELLA LANDRY  
By Robin McCrquodale  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.99

If you are approaching even the mildest of mid-life crises, don't read *Nothing But Blue Skies*. You may not come out alive. The book is about failing, and failing hard — the American way. Or, more precisely, the Montanan way. Thomas McGuane is schooled with a number of buccaneering writers of the American West which includes, most famously in this country, Richard Ford and Richard Brautigan. It is an honourable tradition, with grandmasters Faulkner and Hemingway having provided bibulous literary yardsticks (not necessarily Western ones) for succeeding generations of hellraising Wasp novelists.

Some are good, some just tedious. Michigan-born McGuane is undoubtedly a writer of great talent, though the relentless muscularity of his prose verges on the pugilistic — and, therefore, the exhausting. Occasionally, a concordance is called for. "We went to the Big Horn over the weekend. 16-foot leaders. Antron emerges. Size 22," says one character. As the context is fishing (there is quite a lot of it in the novel), presumably this has something to do with equipment, though the terminology might equally denote NASA space gadgetry.

American to the core, this book's vernacular energy is announced briskly at the top of page four by that irritating transatlantic habit of dropping the perfect tense with temporal adverbs: "they never went anywhere in two cars before." Still, no point in getting hung up on grammar: you either swim with the tide of McGuane's raucous, disrespectful style, or drown (that is, abandon the book on about page ten).

His hero, Frank Copenhaver, is a model buccaneer, a once-successful businessman whose wife has left him, and whose control over life and career is on the blink. A century ago, you might have found him burning whisky tumblers across the saloon, practising his aim from the county-hall roof using his neighbours as targets, and bedding the sheriff's daughter in the barn.

Today — and the novel's setting is extremely contemporary, with references to Clinton and recent stock-market fluctuations — Wild Western man gets into fights in hamburger joints, drives someone else's Ford truck through the night to his ruin, and borrows a Buick to have sex in the back seat with an old girlfriend.

Copenhaver gets into all manner of scrapes, uniformly of his own making and it's hard to like him. Big, blustering, foul-mouthed, sex-crazed 40-something American maleness is unattractive at the best of times, and here, it's no holds barred. Copenhaver does have his soft spots, mainly for his confused, studious daughter Holly, as well as for the Sixties Bob Dylan — and, of course, fishing.

The fishing is significant, as this is also a novel about the American outdoors; a persistent theme in American art is the pinching of the human ego against nature and the struggle for equilibrium with space. Copenhaver finds solace only in fishing, where his damaged ego seems subsumed by the most elemental of tasks: taming nature. It is ordinary life that's got him down: so, against a backdrop of the "blue skies" of McGuane's title, Copenhaver has to sort out his head — and he almost makes it.

McGuane takes too long over his tale, but that is not to detract from the novel's real qualities: a relish for the physical as well as the emotional dimensions of failure, an eye for punchy detail, and an unerring ear for rough, sun-baked dialogue. By contrast, though she takes just as long to tell her story, Robin McCrquodale is altogether more wistful, more respectful in style, a little simpering in tone.

Her heroine, Stella Landry, endures a rite of passage to self-knowledge similar to McGuane's Copenhaver, but she is not half so funny in the process. In a novel basically about a miserable marriage, she soul-gazes at the expense of winning a reader's sympathy, when in fact it is the proper sympathy of friends she needs — but does not get.

If *Nothing But Blue Skies* is overdone, *Stella Landry* is undercooked. After the pungent bourbon of McGuane, McCrquodale is like still water, with perhaps a touch of fizz. There is no doubt about which of these two novels gets the pulse racing.

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# Sublime gossip of the rabbis

Chaim Raphael

THE BOOK OF  
LEGENDS

Edited by Hayim Nahman  
Bialik and Yehoshua Hana  
Ravitzky  
Translated by William  
G. Braude  
Schocken/Kapernard, £49.95

This book of Jewish legends is a huge delight — nearly 900 double-column pages — that somehow achieves the impossible in presentation, being drawn from a vast inchoate literature, yet as easy to follow as a lightweight paperback. It is miraculous, too, in being wholly ancient in thought, distilling the arguments of Talmudic sages 2,000 years ago, yet constantly unfolding comments that are timeless in wonder at the world we live in. Above all, it is a unique evocation of the all-embracing role of the Hebrew Bible as the fundamental of Jewish existence. It is orthodox and daring, reverential and witty, involved with an inward-looking world yet floating serenely above it all in speculation about the human condition.

In a minor way, the use of the word "legends" in the title fails to evoke fully the character and origins of the book. In the first decade of this century two close friends, the Hebrew poet Bialik and the versatile writer Ravitzky, set out to rescue and organise the vast amount of *aggadah* (non-legal argument and entertainment), that had accumulated over some eight centuries since the third century BC and found its way into the rabbinic writings called *Talmud* and *Midrash*.

Part of their aim was to show their readers that the Jews drew on a vastly more sophisticated culture than is indicated by the immensely detailed study of *halakha* (Jewish law). In defining the *halakha*, which is a holy preoccupation, the sages felt free to indulge for illustration in a non-stop flow of ideas and anecdotes, remembered or invented, always linked in some way to the Bible background yet at the same time half-secular in tone.



Children leading a blind man in the Lublin ghetto: photograph by Roman Vishniac. Three years after his visit in 1938, the Germans began the annihilation of the 35,000 Jews then in Lublin. From *To Give Them Light: The Legacy of Roman Vishniac*, edited by Marion Wiesel (Viking, £20)

The editors seem to have long given up obedience to the orthodox faith in which they had been reared, yet by the same token they clearly loved the free-for-all of Jewish tradition which is expressed in the concept of *aggadah*: literally "talk".

In this spirit a rabbi would launch a sermon or discussion with a verse from the Bible, wandering all over the world with fanciful interpretations, before drawing the talk to a warm-hearted proof in a final Bible verse. The talk could include folk legends in the usual sense, but would characteristically be discursive conversation. Although the authors called it in Hebrew *Sefer Ha'Aggadah* (the book of *Aggadah*), it is less a collection of legends than a tapestry of life.

A major factor is the presentation of the talk in exactly the same patchwork style as the sources, being wholly different in this from a famous collection of "legends"

compiled from 1913 on by the great scholar Louis Ginzberg, who retold the stories in his own voice. Ginzberg is always "informative", as in a comment on the first day of Creation: "It takes 500 years to a walk from the earth to the heavens... Of all this vast world, only one third is inhabited, the other two-thirds being equally divided between water and waste desert."

On the same subject, however, Bialik/Ravitzky offers really lively rabbinic argument, with Hillel and Shammai disagreeing on whether Heaven or Earth was created first, each adducing Bible verses in proof. Talk wanders on until Rabbi Abahu mentions the joy of the heavenly beings ("nourished by the splendour of the Presence") compared with those on earth, though both were created at the same time. "I am perplexed," he says.

To see *aggadah* at work, it is diverting to follow their ideas on

what really happened in the adventures of Joseph and his brethren. The brothers, looking for Joseph in Egypt, search "the street of the harlots", convinced that his beauty would have landed him there as a boy prostitute. The rabbis argue about whether Joseph really resisted the wiles of Potiphar's wife. "How could he," asks a *matrona*, "with all the hot blood of youth?" One rabbinic source (not quoted here, perhaps out of delicacy) says that he did go to bed but was impotent. The range of anecdote is infinite. Translation, indexing and printing are superb.

Chaim Raphael's study of *Passover: A Feast of History*, has just been reissued by Weidenfeld.

NEXT MONDAY IN THE TIMES: a new Books page begins, with Victoria Glendinning on the letters of Flaubert and George Sand, Michael Hofmann on Anna Akhmatova plus fiction and paperbacks

# Naked ping-pong with a silly sage

Robert Nye

THE DEVIL  
AT LARGE

Erica Jong on Henry Miller  
By Erica Jong  
Chazco & Windus, £16

Henry Miller once published a book called *My Life and Times* in which there were some snapshots of him playing table tennis with a big-bosomed anonymous young lady with no clothes on. The caption read: "This is my 70th year of ping-pong playing." It must have been not very long after this that Miller read Erica Jong's first novel *Fear of Flying* (1974) and wrote his 50-year-younger contemporary a fan letter out of the blue. Jong responded gratefully, pretending that she had read more of the master's work than in fact she had. They met later that year and remained friends for the rest of Miller's life. So far as I know they never played table tennis, yet *The Devil at Large* does remind me of those photographs. In it, under the guise of biographical-sketch-cum-literary-analysis, Jong plays a kind of naked ping-pong with Miller's life and work.

The book is, in fact, a gushing panegyric. Kicking off from her meeting with Miller, the author treats us to a supine view of him as both great writer and misunderstood prophet. In so far as she has any critical perspective, it takes the form of an attempt to convince us that Miller's best writing belongs in the tradition of Whitman and Thoreau: pagan, open-hearted, transcendental. The emphasis which she places upon the excellent *Colossus of Maroussi* is cogent here, though typically she overstates the case by calling it Miller's *Paradiso* after the *Inferno* of *Tropic of Cancer* and the *Purgatorio* of *Tropic of Capricorn*.

There might be a decent book or at least an essay to be written along these lines, but unfortunately Miss Jong cannot sit still with this idea or any other for long enough to write back again. *The Devil at Large* collapses into incoherent rant on the subject of sexual politics long before its actual termination in the form of a mawkish, imaginary dialogue between undead Henry Miller back from the grave and his devoted female disciple writing about him at her desk.

All this seems to me a matter for regret since Miller is quite an important writer, maybe more for his essays than his novels, and these days he is certainly quite a neglected one. The basic trouble with Jong's book is that it keeps asking the question "Why must we read Miller?" and then only tries to answer the question by worship-

ping him as "a sage". This is not helpful, and besides: what sort of sage was it who wanted his silly ping pong photographs? A singularly foolish sage, no doubt, and there you might begin to have it. Miller made a holy/unholy fool of himself in his work, and that is his glory. Jong comes close to almost perceiving and articulating some such insight at several points in her outpouring, most notably when she finds herself bating against her own hatred of her beloved's anti-Semitism or his being "trapped in a misogynistic world-view" not so far removed from that of your average rapist. But finally she makes an art of avoiding any single insight at all.

Besides, the real question to ask of such a prodigal, profligate, and wildly uneven writer as Henry Miller is not the political question of why must we read him but the human and literary question of how can we read him in the first place. In this regard I recall John Cowper Powys once advising me to read Miller, just as he had already taught me to read Rabelais — as a great big cosmogonic baby in an excremental-sacramental world which seemed made for his eternal delight.

Read that way, there are rich rewards to be found: the opening pages of *Tropic of Cancer*, certainly, and the story in the same book about the young Hindu in the brothel which culminates in a vision of a silver platter at the end of time "with two enormous lamps of shit" on it; the Traherne-like passage about the urban Eden of Miller's boyhood in the 14th ward of Brooklyn in *Black Spring*; the vision of Greece as endless glasses of water in *Maroussi*; the splendid essay about bread and the impossibility of finding a good loaf in the whole of America. "The Staff of Life", in *Remember to Remember*.

To her credit, Jong does draw attention to most of this essential Miller, and I value her overall assertion as a result that his real theme was not sex so much as joy, and that this is what makes so many readers dislike him. *The Devil at Large*, then, is not all bad. Some of it is even readable. And its heart, like its subjects, is without doubt in the right place. It is just that Miller needs more than naked ping-pong in the present state of the game.

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# Cheap shots at the Chief

For 48 years a power in the land, Hoover is jeered as a transvestite homophobe and a fraud. Mark Steyn is not convinced

According to Anthony Summers, J. Edgar Hoover was opposed to homosexuals because he was a closet homosexual; he was opposed to black rights because he was secretly black. By the early Seventies, when the FBI Director is refusing to let his female staff come to work in trouser suits, you know the Summers technique well enough to make the connection yourself: Hoover was a covert transvestite. A "G-Man In A G-String" to quote a recent American headline. America's Number One lawman attended an orgy at New York's Plaza Hotel "wearing a fluffy black dress, very fluffy, with flounces, and lace stockings and high heels, and a black curly wig. He had make-up on, and false eyelashes." Surprisingly, he didn't sing "The Man That Got Away" and dedicate it to Meyer Lansky.

To Summers, Hoover's transvestism is the reason the FBI never cracked down on organised crime. The mob had a photograph of him in his flounces, or so says Summers's source (a bootlegger's moll known to have committed perjury in court, but don't let that put you off). In an age when Justice Department scandals have dwindled down to whether you paid social security on the Peruvian babysitter, the posthumous transformation of the most feared man in America into Gay Edgar Hoover, presiding queen of La Cage Aux Feds, is a reminder that, high heeled or not, he still looms head and shoulders above his successors. Still, after 48 years as FBI Director, from 1924 to 1972, from Coolidge to Nixon, he might reasonably have expected a better shot at posterity than that proposed by the Professor of Medical Psychology at Johns Hopkins University, who wants the condition of "malignant bisexuality" to be known henceforth as "J. Edgar Hoover Syndrome".

Well, why not? And, while we're about it, why not rename sayrasis as John F. Kennedy Syndrome? As for the strange compulsion of American preachers to patronise the local whores, how about Martin Luther King Syndrome? After all, the Kennedy/Monroe couplings in Peter Lawford's bedroom were taped by the FBI, the Mafia and the teamsters' leader Jimmy Hoffa. When you think of the bulkiness of recording equipment back then, it's a wonder there was any space left in the room for so much as a camp

bed. In contrast, someone claims to have glimpsed a blurred snapshot of Hoover engaged in oral sex with his assistant director, Clyde Tolson. But even as diligent a biographer as Summers has been unable to run down these photographs, never mind anyone who actually had sex with Hoover — a notable omission in a book which relies on so many presidential mistresses.

Hoover was probably one of those people who indulged in very little sexual activity with anyone — an unpalatable truth for a modern biographer to confront. But, in American public life, this makes him the exception that proves the rule: on the evidence of FBI files, American politicians spend most of their time in motel bedrooms, brothels and the second cubicle on the left in the fifth-floor men's room. Just about every president came to power determined to get rid of the ol' sonofabitch, only to find that Hoover already had the goods on them. If there were any goods to be had on Hoover, it's odds on that wily schemers like Johnson or Nixon would have gotten 'em. True, Hoover and Tolson were seen holding hands. But then, so were Hillary Clinton and Barbara Bush.

To those who in the bouffant dawn of Clinton's America think it ever more important to champion the cause of Ugly Men in Public Life, Hoover is too soft a target. Besides, for all the evidence of a repressed homophobe cross-dresser, you could just as easily cite Hoover as a trail-blazer for so many of America's obsessions: alcohol-free office environments (until he took control of the Bureau in 1924, the detectives were mostly boozed-up thugs); fanatical dieting (he required his operatives to maintain a correct weight determined by an official examiner); and sexual harassment (Supreme Court justices who had, Hoover observed, "a habit of pawing women" would nowadays be called to account on the Oprah Winfrey Show). In these respects, Hoover seems more a man of our times than his swingin' Sixties opponents.

In his lifetime, the chief had no trouble, in Hoover-speak, putting the kibosh on those jaspers. Nailing the old buzzard now is easy-peasy, wimpy stuff. Summers's chapters begin with a damning quotation, attributed to "Nicholas Katzenbach, former Attorney General" or "Former Acting Attorney General Lawrence Silbermann". Nominally,



Clyde Tolson and (right) his FBI chief, J. Edgar Hoover: were they more than just good buddies?

these men were Hoover's bosses, but he knew — and they did — that he wielded far more power than passing political pygmies. The only Attorney General the average American could put a name to was also the only one to try to enforce the formal subordination — and Hoover reacted by stitching up Robert Kennedy more effectively than any of his predecessors. Whether discussing nuclear matters with Marilyn Monroe qualifies Robert as a security risk is open to question, but requisitioning an FBI Cadillac to ride to the assassination certainly counts as unethical. By this stage, Hoover wasn't

much interested in anything other than preserving his own position. But that should not detract from his achievements. He turned a corrupt and incompetent rabble into the most efficient crime detection squad in the world. He contributed to the sense of rebirth in Roosevelt's America by ending the reigns of Dillinger, Machine-Gun Reilly et al. In an insular society by no means convinced of the need to go to war, he demolished German attempts at penetration and sabotage. In America it's not where you start, it's where you finish, and Hoover finished on top. Most 77-year-old officials fade away forgot-

ten and embittered, far from influence; Hoover died in office. Even after he was gone, the aura lingered. "He's got files on everybody, goddammit!" said Nixon at the height of Watergate, as if Hoover was still alive to save him. Summers suggests that, had he followed his FBI chief, the president would never have got ensnared. Johnson appreciated his talents: better to have Hoover inside the tent pissing out than outside pissing in. In deference to his capacity to spray everyone in sight, if we are to name a medical condition after Hoover, perhaps it should be compulsive micriturition.

# Outrage yields to inside view

I wanted to write about life under occupation," writes the author of *Against the Stranger*, "ordinary life for ordinary people, Palestinian and Israeli." She has made a very ordinary job of it. She thanks an editor at Viking who "laboured over my hideous spelling." That is the least of her problems.

Extensively over-educated in the United States (two Masters degrees, one abandoned PhD), Janine di Giovanni then decided to embrace journalism, a calling she appears to confuse with one of the caring professions. The text is littered with other people's flowers — a quotation from Akhmatova's *Requiem* here, an impenetrable Arab proverb there ("I am black within myself, but I always wear red for my enemy"). Her own writing is true and inconsequential, with a high cliché count — cigarettes dangle from lips, people scratch their chins nervously, stare at each other accusingly, brush the hair out of their eyes.

Miss di Giovanni's notion of interviewing is to ask young Black Panthers whether they felt any remorse at the moment they pulled the trigger. "You know George Bush?" one of them asks her. "Not personally," she replies modestly. (She clearly knows Papa Hemingway, though: life in the Gaza Strip, we read, "is like tarmac, like shit.") We also make the fleeting acquaintance of a German radio journalist with "calculated Aryan looks".

It seems that 30 per cent of the population of the occupied territories suffer from depression and angst. No wonder, if people write books like this about them. Readers with a serious interest in the Middle East should turn to Ghazi Algosaihi's short book. His perspective on the continuing crisis in the Gulf and the Arab world is both subtle and informed, a welcome antidote to the chattering of superannuated western ambassadors and the instant punditry of visiting firemen.

Algosaihi is a Saudi. Originally an academic (political science and international relations) he has also occupied important positions in public life — director of railroads, minister of industry and of health, now ambassador to this country. This is an insider's book. It is subtitled *An Attempt to Understand*. The attempt succeeds handsomely. He begins by examining Saddam Hussein's psychological make-up, arguing that merely to dismiss the Iraqi dictator as "insane" does not get us far. He distinguishes three characteristics — a thirst for power, a persecution complex and a fixed inclination to "adventurism". (An "adventure" he defines as "a carefully calculated initiative fraught with danger"; he cites as earlier "adventures" Saddam's participation in the attempt to assassinate 'Abd al-Karim Qasim, and the war with Iran.)

For Algosaihi, it is from the war with Iran that the invasion of Kuwait flowed. The view of that conflict as a clash of nationality between Arab and Persian he dismisses as superficial. He concedes that sectarian differences and border disputes played their part, but identifies the flashpoint as the moment the Khomenei regime decided the Islamic revolution was not merely for domestic consumption but also for export.

Although the Iraqi media trumpeted a great victory, the taste of that victory was not especially sweet to its "creator". Saddam had failed to extend Iraqi sovereignty over the entire Shatt al-Arab waterway (the declared reason for the war) or to change the nature of the regime in Tehran (the true reason). Iraq had debts of \$80 billion and a million-strong army which the civilian economy was quite unable to absorb. Kuwait, writes Algosaihi, glimmered before Saddam like the legendary ring of Solomon — one swift act of plunder and all his problems would be solved.

Saddam's undoubted talent for tactical manoeuvre was unmatched by any comparable gift for strategy. A man of limited education, his knowledge of the world beyond Iraq is restricted, his ignorance of the western democracies profound. He also seriously misreads events in the crumbling Soviet Union. By late 1990 the invasion of Kuwait had become a matter of destiny, inevitable because preordained. It was, he told some of his senior officers, the only decision in his life which he himself did not make: it had been taken directly by "God the exalted and the sublime".

Algosaihi concerns himself little with the detail of "Desert Storm". His economical conclusion is that it ended as it did because one army was fighting the last battle of the first world war and the other was waging the first battle of the third world war. He chronicles the futile search for an "Arab" solution and explores the motives of those Arab leaders who supported Saddam — the excitable Yasser Arafat, the flexible King Hussein. ("As is his custom," he writes delicately of the latter, "the king rode on the wave of the future.") Algosaihi also has interesting things to say about a seeming paradox — the support the crudely secular Saddam received from fundamentalist leaders.

Algosaihi is severe on the PLO — for its divided leadership, for the facility with which it becomes embroiled in Arab disputes, for its proclivity to speak about peace in international organisations and about war in the refugee camps. He also offers wise reflections on the nurturing of democracy in the region — too wise, perhaps, to gain early acceptance in the Arab world.

Ian McIntyre is a former Controller of BBC Radio 3 and Radio 4, and a former associate editor of *The Times*. His *Life of Lord Reith* will be published later this year.

# The propriety of newspaper proprietors

John Campbell

THE ASTORS  
The Life and Times of the  
Astor Dynasty, 1762-1992  
By Derek Wilson  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

Old families, Lloyd George was once reported to have remarked, "are like chessmen: the older they get the worse they smell." Both branches of the Anglo-American Astor dynasty have certainly produced some ripe specimens over the past 200 years. Yet the family offers a striking exception to this dictum, in that its more recent representatives have been a good deal more admirable than their ancestors.

Their fortune was made by the original Johann Jakob Astor, who emigrated to America from the little German town of Walldorf, 30 kilometres south of Heidelberg, in 1780. The son of a butcher, he began by trading in furs, then he opened up the China trade in silk and tea; finally he invested far-sightedly in New York real estate. Though he lived to the age of 85, John Jacob (as he became) was no philanthropist, and neither were his heirs: for the next three generations his descendants did little more than sit on their money and watch it grow. All they gave back to the city from whose soaring property values their wealth derived was a series of ever more luxurious hotels named after themselves: Waldorf Astoria. Reading this book I suddenly realised that this is the objective of the game of Monopoly: building grand hotels is the most self-glorifying way of maximising the profit on real estate.

Not until the fifth and sixth generations did any Astor begin to develop anything like a social conscience. The founder's great-grandson, William Waldorf, made a tentative effort to enter politics but was so appalled to find himself vilified as a rapacious shun landlord that he fled back to the more deferential social climate of late-Victorian Britain, where his wealth bought him first a stately home (Cliveden), then a newspaper (*The Observer*) and finally a viscountcy. With this inheritance, it was his sons Waldorf and John Jacob V, and their sons after them, who embraced the concept of *noblesse oblige*, making the Astor name synonymous with the enlightened



Fountain of Love, Cliveden: Astor seat and scene of scandal

use of private wealth for public purposes — until taxation in the Sixties reduced them to the ranks of the merely rich. Waldorf entered Parliament in 1910 as a very serious young social reformer, but his Commons career was cut short by his father's death. Thereafter he beavered away in the shadow of his wife, the irrepressible Nancy, until their politics diverged too painfully — his to the left, hers to the right. In Plymouth, where she was MP and he Lord Mayor, they acted as a sort of royal couple, particularly in wartime.

At the same time Waldorf was a model proprietor of *The Observer*; his brother John (created Lord Astor of Hever in 1956) likewise guaranteed the independence of *The Times*, which he bought in 1922 to preserve it from the likes of Northcliffe and Rothemann. For a golden decade after 1945 *The Observer* set a new standard in quality journalism under the ownership of Waldorf's second son, David. It is for their spotless record as press lords that the British Astors deserve to be honoured.

Instead they are best remembered for two scandals: the secret machinations of the so-called "Cliveden Set" in support of appeasement in 1937-38, and the embarrassing involvement of Bill Astor, the third Viscount, in the Profumo scandal in 1963. Derek Wilson deals admirably with both. He disposes of much of the mythology that lingers around "Cliveden Set", but concludes judiciously that while there was no plot, nor even a consistent Cliveden "line", there was certainly "an

enthusiastic wielding of influence", lubricated by a level of entertaining that was already anachronistic.

On the Profumo affair he has something of a scoop: he has been given access for the first time to Bill Astor's papers. From these he is able to present a plausible portrait of an easy-going but shy peer, hopelessly out of his depth with the sexual shenanigans of Stephen Ward. It must be said that this account rings truer than the colourful "memoirs" of Christine Keeler.

The Astors is Derek Wilson's second family saga. His study of the Rothschilds has just come out in paperback, and he has now moved on to the Guinneses. He has struck a rich seam; to his credit, however, he is not just out for the easy pickings. This book has been scrupulously researched in private and public archives on both sides of the Atlantic. Perhaps he skates too lightly over the financial aspects of the story, but he follows an immense cast of characters — in addition to the major players there are misers, eccentrics, playboys and wretches, as well as his spouses — with impressive assurance. (Lasting marriages have not been the family's strong point: the three children of John Jacob IV got through ten partners between them, while the five children of Waldorf and Nancy mustered a dozen.)

Across this crowded canvas Wilson probes without muckraking and defends without scotchpancy. He sets the record straight where necessary, giving credit where he thinks it due, always informative and entertaining. It is difficult to see this book being soon surpassed.

William Rees-Mogg

CHANGING FACES  
A History of The Guardian  
1956-88  
By Geoffrey Taylor  
Fourth Estate, £20

In the post-war history of Britain, *The Guardian* has a special position. For nearly 50 years — a long time in the history of newspapers — it has been the leading daily newspaper of the serious left. The only parallel to its position has been *The Observer*, for *The Independent*, as its name implies, rejects the degree of ideological commitment of *The Guardian*. *The Times* had a brief flirtation with left-wing views just after the war, otherwise *The Guardian* has had a virtual monopoly.

This has made *The Guardian* a political force, and its three editors, A. P. Wadsworth (1944-56), Alastair Hetherington (1956-75) and Peter Preston (1975 to date), have enjoyed considerable influence. *The Guardian* has not only influenced the Labour party, but has been the natural newspaper of a whole cultural group, including political Liberals and Social Democrats, and many non-political people in the arts and academic life. Each of the editors in this period has been a revisionist, discarding much of what *The Guardian* had been before. In his new history of the paper, Geoffrey Taylor quotes John Fringle's shrewd comment on Wadsworth: "He saved *The Guardian* by making it more lively, more entertaining, more realistic, and a far better newspaper. He quickly dropped those causes, like pacifism, Zionism, internationalism and the official Liberal Party, which however noble and idealistic they had once been, had become so many albatrosses round *The Guardian's* neck."

Much the same comment could be made of both his successors. In 1967 Alastair Hetherington rejected a memorandum which recommended "Telegraphic" in style rather than policy, but said that he took a middle course. "Even the sublime *Guardian* (I speak ironically, not complacently) is often read by straphangers in tubes or pycnons in traffic jams." He certainly improved both the new service and the layout, and dropped some of the old Wadsworth policy commitments. So in his turn did

Peter Preston, not once but at least twice, having remade *The Guardian* when he first became editor, and remade it again in response to *The Independent* in the late 1980s. *The Guardian* never did copy the *Daily Telegraph*. The stylistic changes tended to follow the example of the *Sunday Times* or *The Observer*, rather than those of other dailies. But it is an infinitely easier newspaper to read than the old *Manchester Guardian* of the immediate post-war period.

Yet all the changes in layout and revisions of policy have not destroyed the underlying personality of the paper, which has attracted so many good journalists and so many progressive readers. Against Suez — surely rightly — and against the Falklands expedition — probably wrongly — *The Guardian* has retained its pacifist tinge. Yet Peter Jenkins's column on the Falklands (which ended with the memorable sentence "we should have no wish to become the Israelis of Western Europe") would not have taken exactly that line a generation before. Zionism may have been discarded by Wadsworth, but it was also rediscovered by successive editors, and by the progressive audience of *Guardian* readers.

*Changing Faces* is written by an insider. Geoffrey Taylor has as a result a depth of knowledge which would not have been available to an outsider writer. He devotes much space, perhaps too much space, to the mechanics of the paper's management, when many readers would be more interested in *The Guardian's* impact on the world. The main lines of policy associated with Harold Wilson, James Callaghan and Roy Jenkins were all, in their time, supported by *The Guardian* and were certainly influenced by *The Guardian*. If they failed, did *The Guardian* fail too, and, if so, why? Or are these policies only in temporary eclipse? Certainly the Clinton administration is a very *Guardian*-like administration, with Hillary Rodham Clinton almost a refugee from *The Guardian* Woman's Page of the 1970s.

In all the admirable detail of Taylor's book, the most important point about *The Guardian* is not lost, but it is perhaps not given its central place. *The Guardian* is an ideological newspaper, a newspaper of ideas. That is its strength and its weakness. *The Guardian's* history should be a part of the history of ideas in Britain, rather than the history of newspapers.

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En route to the Continent: the first demonstration loading for goods to be transported by the Channel rail tunnel taking place at the Folkestone terminal

## Road or rail, going for green

**E**nvironmental issues, especially the possibility of putting heavy freight loads back onto rail, will force their way to the top of the agenda as the logistics industry forms a new body this summer.

The merger of the Institute of Logistics and Distribution Management (ILD) with the Institute of Material Management (IMM) will create the Institute of Logistics, an organisation of 12,500 members. It marks the maturing of a movement that began 12 years ago when the National Economic Development Office set up the Centre for Physical Distribution Management.

During the lifetime of the ILDM, which is based in Corby, Northamptonshire, the region has had a resurgence as the warehousing heart of the nation, served by a network of motorways.

Ray Horsley, the institute's director general, goes so far as to say: "Davenport in Northamptonshire is now the centre of the country."

Recent events have tightened the stranglehold that road hauliers

**Environmental concerns are being taken increasingly seriously by the industry. Yet, Rodney Hobson says, more progress is needed**

have on distribution. In the past few months, British Steel has switched 9,000 tons of limestone from rail to road. Blue Circle and Castle Cement have switched 500,000 tons between them and Read & Sandilands has switched 100,000 tons of steel.

Increased road use inevitably raises environmental issues. P-E International, the management consultancy, says that although most businesses recognise the importance of paying more than lip service to the environmental aspects, such concerns are raised in the logistics field only when there are clear cost benefits.

A survey carried out by P-E in conjunction with the institute showed that two-thirds of companies expect that dealing with environmental issues will raise logistics costs. Jan Szymankiewicz, P-E's managing director of logistics consulting, says that small com-

panies feel more threatened by cost increases, partly because they have done the least to comply with legislation. He adds, however, that "nearly all the major contributions to environmental improvement already undertaken also have a significant cost-reduction element".

Distribution companies have felt less pressure to respond to environmental issues than industrial or retail companies. They see their brief as responding to the environmental and contractual needs of their clients. Big companies are responding more positively to greater environmental pressures, Mr Szymankiewicz says, by introducing innovative policies and training programmes.

Minimising the time and distance that a vehicle spends on the road and reducing the amount of packaging are seen as the main ways of cutting costs. Lessening pollution, avoiding travel through

residential areas and arranging for packaging to be returned are unlikely to be implemented.

Professor David Bellamy, who conducted the survey, says: "It is the duty of the logistics industry to take positive action to improve continuously its environmental record."

**T**o many members of the public, improving the environment means putting more freight back on the railways. Rail freight in the UK takes two forms: the 120 million tons a year of heavy freight, such as petroleum and construction materials, and the 15 million tons of miscellaneous goods transported mainly in containers.

David Green, Railfreight's public affairs director, admits that road has the advantage on short hauls. "If a container has to be taken to industrial premises, loaded, taken to the railhead and collected at the

other end, that cannot be cost-effective over distances of less than 300 miles, especially now that Britain has an extensive motorway network."

The Continent offers more scope. At present, two-way cross-Channel rail freight amounts to a mere 2 million tons, half on the container service between Harwich and Zeebrugge, the other half on the train ferry service between Dover and Dunkirk. Mr Green says: "The opening of the Channel Tunnel represents an enormous opportunity for us and we are investing £500 million in new facilities connected with the tunnel. We can cover journeys up to 24 hours quicker than by road."

As typical journeys, he cites London to Munich in 24 hours, Glasgow to Paris in 20 hours or Birmingham to Salzburg in 27 hours. Manchester to Milan can be covered by rail in 32 hours, he adds, which compares with 60 hours by lorry. British Rail is hoping that cross-Channel exports and imports will rise to 6.5 million tons by the middle of this decade.

## All your eggs in one warehouse

Many companies are using logistics experts to centralise their operations

**C**ompanies attempting to rationalise their distribution services into one central site or a series of large regional centres are increasingly turning to logistics specialists to help them cope with the complex calculations on cost and benefits.

"Consolidation of the entire product range at a single site means that inventory can be reduced, product availability is improved and management procedures are simplified," says David Grahamslaw, the development manager of TNT's contract distribution subsidiary, whose clients include Shell

do a run from London to Scotland because of regulations covering drivers' hours," Mr Grahamslaw says.

Companies that centralise their operations are tending to want a warehouse designed to their specification. They want high buildings or gangways of a specific width. They may also want warehouses as large as 250,000 sq ft. At Magna Park in Leicestershire, which has been designed as a distribution centre, few warehouses are smaller than 150,000 sq ft.

Logistics experts can help by providing the cash for new premises and equipment.

**'It is often best to go to a greenfield site and start from scratch'**

"It is often best to go to a greenfield site and so start from scratch. Contracting out is a way for a company to reduce capital input because we put up the cost of the plan and charge it back over the period of our contract," Mr Grahamslaw says. The problem is what to do with smaller sites left vacant when a company rationalises onto one large site.

Mr Grahamslaw stresses that logistics experts try to run operations as a partnership with the client, often using lorries in the customer's own colours. "They come to us with the basic data such as where the suppliers are and where the customers are," he says. "We look at the supply chain and quote the optimum solution. There are regional variations in rents and rates to offset against the cost of transport. It can be quite a complex calculation."

"We then find an existing warehouse or arrange to design and build a new one."

Rationalisation has inevitably tended to mean finding sites in the Midlands. "You could not

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# Expertise heads for the East

British companies are setting up sophisticated services in the countries of Eastern Europe

Europe's unifying market, which will eventually stretch beyond the European Community borders to other continental countries and east to the former Soviet domain, will increasingly demand the use of the latest distribution techniques such as logistics.

This, as a survey by Andersen Consulting and Cranfield School of Management underlines, should be a watershed opportunity for Britain's distribution specialists.

However, the survey points out some risks. Eastern Europe generally has such inefficient distribution that its first need is for simple, effective systems. Incoming West European companies, it advises, should remain flexible.

More than one factor accounts for the British logistics leadership seen in companies such as Exel Logistics, Tibbert & Britten, Unigate's Wincanton, Christian Salvesen, the Hayes Group and Transport Development Group.

What is considered to be the biggest regional distribution centre in Europe is run by Salvesen, which is based in Edinburgh. The centre — large enough to house six jumbo jets — is at Bellshill, Scotland, and is managed on behalf of Safeway, which is part of Argyl. About 1.5 million cases are despatched weekly from the centre. Salvesen operates 48 sites in the UK and 31 on the Continent.

International distribution companies in the express delivery field have also grown logistics arms, an example being TNT, which has formed partnerships with a number of automotive companies to create delivery bridges between manufacturing and assembly plants spread around Europe. Ford, Vauxhall and Rover are among its customers.

Several factors have pre-

pared the British logistics specialists for the European opportunities now opening up. Compared to mainland European distribution markets, which are only now freeing up under EC pressure, Britain's market has been deregulated for some 25 years.

With competition in retailing, the big grocery chains — laden with far greater property costs than their continental opposite numbers — sought one offset through more efficient distribution. Now they are rated as the most efficient in the world, with profit margins well ahead of those of the Americans and continentals.

Logistics companies, particularly in the field of food, pick up products at farm and factory gates, store and sort them in big regional warehouses with the right temperature and humidity conditions and then deliver them to stores just at the right time, so that stockholding at each store is virtually eliminated.

The logistic specialists provide everything from transport and personnel to warehousing, in what are known as contracted-out third-party partnerships, usually with the entire pipeline dedicated to a single customer. These are the supermarket chains such as J. Sainsbury, Tesco, Argyl's Safeway and stores with a broader range including apparel, as with Marks & Spencer, and DIY goods as with the market leader, B & Q.

Similar techniques bring the right things together at the right time, notably in the production of cars and trucks and of electronic goods from domestic kitchen appliances to televisions and computers.

One British operator driving hard into Europe is Exel. It claims a leadership position in the British logistics market, and that it is among the handful of top logistics brands



Square deals: Exel has been helping Russia with distribution for more than two years

in Europe. Robbie Burns, the Exel managing director, believes the European potential for the third-party partnership approach is clear enough.

In logistically developed sectors such as food retailing, half of all distribution in Britain is contracted out to the large-scale operators. In continental Europe on the other hand, at most only 15 per cent of such distribution business is handled through third-party partnerships using fully integrated systems.

Exel already is close to what it judges to be a sufficiently large presence in Spain to continue expansion there organically. Its Spanish cornerstone was the acquisition of Sadema, which had been owned by some of the country's big food manufacturers.

Exel has been increasing its presence in Benelux, Holland, France and Germany. Its latest acquisition being of Macke und Sohn, a family-owned distribution business in the

north of Germany. Exel was active in Germany in the frozen foods and catering distribution markets, so the latest takeover, bringing in food-handling contracts for two big manufacturers, means that Exel is operating broadly across the grocery sector.

Mr Burns says: "We cater for the distribution needs of customers, and so where they go is likely to open up a route for us." Hence when Marks & Spencer established itself in France, it was Exel that organised the company's warehousing distribution.

The increasing number of British companies taking the acquisition route into mainland Europe — Kingfisher and Tesco being among the latest to do so — is likely to mean that British logistics specialists will benefit. The Andersen-Cranfield survey of European logistics

systems warns against a simplistic approach to the European market. Responding to a single market does not just mean setting up one vast central warehouse in a single sweeping act of rationalisation, the survey says.

It adds: "Current levels of transport congestion and transit speed are posing challenges for firms attempting to rationalise their logistics systems. Although transit times will improve after border checks are dismantled, the transportation infrastructure (particularly roads) will become increasingly overburdened as transport volumes increase throughout the remainder of the 1990s."

DEREK HARRIS

Reconfiguring European Logistics Systems, by Andersen Consulting's Kevin O'Laughlin and Eric Cabocet with Dr James Cooper of Cranfield School of Management, costs £25.

# Taking the future into account

Britain must remain at the forefront, says Ray Horsley

There is no doubt that the development of a supply chain management style is a prerequisite of all successful manufacturing and retailing businesses.

To ignore the potential advantage in setting customer service standards or in containing inventory levels throughout the whole chain is no longer a permissible alternative for business. It is known that such costs have, on average, fallen from 12.33 per cent to 7.35 per cent in the past ten years, as a direct result of adopting these two techniques.

But what of the future? There are five areas which must be taken into account.

Europe and the single market: Businesses are looking to embrace the concept of a European-wide logistics strategy. Customer service is more important than simple cost reductions in one element of the chain.

Four key questions need to be addressed:

- How many distribution centres are needed and where will they be located?
- What are the best product sourcing and product flow policies for each part of the market, and for each product?
- What should the volume throughput be for each distribution centre?
- What are the total supply chain costs, and how do they break down?

There is the further complication of Eastern Europe. If we wait until all the political and socio-economic questions are answered, then we will wait too long. The existing market of 12 nations is big enough in logistic terms. We should be acting now to establish the United Kingdom in what we know, rather than waiting for what might be in the future.

Innovative technology: The development of information technology in logistics, including the use of satellites for international communication between operating sites and transport vehicles, is bringing better management information, and inform managers of the precise situation across the whole market place.

Manufacturers have access to:

- the state of any individual

- accurate freight documentation.
- Electronic data interchange facilities.
- the ability to link the system into the in-house management and financial systems.
- avoidance of customs work.
- VAT accounting.
- an interlink customer and order process system.

These new systems are



'Customer service is more important than simple cost reductions in one part of the chain'

Ray Horsley

being used by companies on both sides of the Channel.

There are also advances in equipment, especially in warehousing and handling techniques. This is particularly true in the food chain with frozen, chilled and ambient products. Other industries such as clothing and consumer durables have also had dramatic advances in techniques.

Contracted services: There seems to be no hindrance to the development of outsourcing much of the requirement for logistics management. It will not be

acceptable for such operators simply to offer an efficient transport service. Clients will be looking for a complete logistics service, specifically designed to meet the requirements of their own customer base.

The environment: The recent oil tanker disaster off the Shetland Islands brought home to all the impact which a transport vehicle can have on the environment.

It is not only transport which is involved, but warehousing, packaging, waste, materials handling and the question of hazardous products.

While the fresh regulations may seem difficult and restrictive, in many cases they offer opportunity for organisations to gain commercial advantage.

Professionalism: Clearly there is a need to educate and train a new breed of professional managers, which is perhaps the most important requirement for UK industry. If we fail, the vacuum will be filled by managers from other European nations which have taken the steps to train staff.

Specific educational facilities are in place across Europe to train and equip this new breed of manager with the skills needed. The courses and training packages are both for graduates and for re-training established managers.

The UK is leading Europe in establishing standards by which managers can be measured and soon, hopefully, we will be able to offer a European recognised "standard of achievement".

It is to be hoped that the progress which has been made in the UK will not be allowed to be lost through lack of support. We need to encourage universities and teaching institutions to consider the study of logistics in graduate training.

We need to encourage young, bright school leavers to consider logistics as the exciting, rewarding profession which it is, and we need to provide facilities to train existing staff in the new techniques.

● The author is the director general of the Institute of Logistics and Distribution Management.

# Rocky ride in a recession

But the Channel Tunnel and open frontiers could boost business

Recession has made trading difficult for express courier and parcels service companies — and not only in Britain. The business has also suffered on the Continent and in north America, Australia and the Far East, Derek Harris writes.

In Britain, many small regional carriers have stopped trading and last year the America-based Federal Express, one of the biggest international operators, pulled out from the United Kingdom and continental domestic delivery business.

Instead, Federal Express, an operation turning over \$7.5 billion a year and employing more than 90,000 people worldwide, is concentrating on its strengths. These include an international airline network.

Among British operators, Lynx, the fast-deliveries arm of NFC, Britain's biggest freighting and logistics operator, ran up increased losses last year.

The recession damaged all Britain's fast courier and parcels services. The Lynx performance contrasted with the strong growth in NFC's logistics operations serving the retail sector under the Exel banner. That Exel's first quarter turnover to the end of January rose by 25 per cent and operating profit rocketed by 48 per cent was in stark contrast to Lynx.

Further rationalisation in the express delivery market is forecast by Tom Bell, the managing director of TNT Express Delivery Services, part of the TNT group, which began in Australia.

He would not be surprised to see even a large carrier go out of business soon. "Very few people are making money," he says. His company, he maintains, is making some profit.

What recession pressures have fostered is a system of more frequent ordering by smaller amounts. Delivery volumes have increased, Mr Bell says, but he adds: "Even so, rates are being depressed and we have yet to see any signs of recovery."

Stock level reductions have become an increased preoccupation so the market is moving towards earlier morning and just-in-time deliveries. Mr Bell explains.

TNT is considering "hole-in-the-wall" deliveries and has interested some big companies. "If we can deliver in the early morning, say, at 4 o'clock," Mr Bell says, "we can go into the major conurbations when few other vehicles are on the roads."

Chris Atkinson, the sales and marketing manager, says that once the recession ends, instead of the market reverting to what it was, deliveries will be needed even earlier. "What you do today becomes tomorrow's norm."

As economic recovery, however slow, sets in throughout Britain, those in the fast-deliveries sector will start to put the hard times behind them. The recovery now showing signs of developing in the United States will also benefit companies operating in-

ternationally. America's United Parcel Service (UPS) claims it is Europe's biggest parcel-distribution company, delivering 600,000 parcels a day.

UPS has invested \$1 billion in Europe and has a staff of 22,500, about 9,300 vehicles and more than 430 operating centres in its European distribution network.

The company has twin European operating headquarters, one in Richmond on Thames in Britain and the other in Auerbach, Germany. The German one covers eastern Europe.

UPS has found some cheer in the removal of border controls in the European Community. It started a high-speed European service in late 1991 in anticipation of the single market and the Channel Tunnel, using Europe's road networks to deliver packages and freight to 15 countries.

UPS has been able to cut some transit times by as much as 24 hours and rates to customers have been reduced by up to 30 per cent.

Peter Quantrell, the chief executive of UPS UK, says: "We are now able to save valuable time at border crossing points and take more direct routes between many countries. The resulting savings, both in time and money, are being passed to our customers."



European opening: the Channel Tunnel's Cheriton Terminal

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# Keeping track of Britain's food chain

Electronic trading has quickly become the norm in food retailing. Tesco Stores, for instance, deals with well over 1,000 suppliers across computer networks using electronic data interchange (EDI) systems so that stocks can be replenished precisely when needed, forecast sales patterns passed on to suppliers and invoices forwarded.

The supermarket chain's notable drive into EDI is being increasingly matched by its rivals, especially Sainsbury and Argyl's Safeway.

Wincanton, the logistics arm of Unigate which last month bought Glass Glover to add to its food distribution muscle, finds a bespoke electronic relationship with its customers is most useful. Wincanton trades electronically with both manufacturers, such as Mattessons Wall's, Baileys and St Ivel, and with retailers such as Isolee's Gateway supermarket chain, CRS, which is one of the biggest Co-op retailers, Iceland and Nurdin and Peacock, the grocery wholesalers.

Kingfisher, the group which includes Woolworth, is expanding its use of electronic point-of-sale technology. It is fully operational in the B & Q do-it-yourself chain and in the Comet electrical products outlets. The Superdrug chemist chain is increasingly going over to the system, as are the 800 stores of the Woolworth chain.

## Computerised delivery systems provide greater efficiency, Derek Harris reports

In the freighting sector, information technology techniques have also become vital as the world economic slowdown has intensified competition.

DHL, the international express delivery company, has recently added to its tracking and tracing techniques in order to identify shipments while still in transit and give more accurate estimates of arrival times.

High volume customers can have an in-house shipment processing facility which will print air bills, shipment bills and Customs invoices while also offering an on-line tracer for worldwide movements of shipped goods.

Parcelforce, whose operations have been virtually separated from Royal Mail with a view to privatisation, as the government ponders a Parcelforce future in the private sector, has installed a tracking and tracing system so that customers can be told where their goods are and given other management reports. It has invested £2 million in an in-cab communication system which gives a customer access to delivery details 15 minutes after a scheduled delivery time.

"We are continuing to invest and will be opening next year in

Liverpool our first regional high-technology sorting centre," says Malcolm Kitchener, the managing director of Parcelforce.

"It will include more than £7 million-worth of related technology and will be able to handle up to 20,000 items an hour." Eight regional sorting offices are planned, to allow the company to cover the United Kingdom.

The Royal Mail's £1.5 million system uses computer-linked laser guns to read bar-coded labels on every bag of mail, enabling it to trace outward airmail as far as its point of departure from Britain. It claims an acceleration in dealing with overseas mail as well as greater control.

Even the brewing industry, a sector where traditional ways have seemed to linger, is beginning to take advantage of information technology systems. The face of beer retailing in Britain changed following the monopoly inquiry which led to a sharp reduction in the number of tied tenanted pubs that the big brewers could hold. Many more pubs are now run independently, some as single free houses, others by new retail chains.

Whitbread, one of the handful of big national brewers, still keeps several teams of the shire horses it once used to pull delivery drays, but since the advent of high-speed trucks horses are used only for nostalgic promotions. Now the company is trying to wring more efficiency out of its distribution chain.

Allan Clark, the contracts and central services manager for Whitbread's distribution division, says: "Whitbread was early into new styles of distribution, first with the take-home trade and then to the pubs, clubs and hotels. Other brewers naturally followed similar routes."

Now that the beer retail market has freed up, and the brewers' profit margins are under increasing pressure, the need for greater efficiency has become paramount.

The big grocers are using EDI links with Whitbread, and Mr Clark sees products increasingly moving only on a sold order basis which means stock levels will be easier to control. Greater control of the trucking fleet will be another element.

The many detailed improvements along the Whitbread distribution chain, including the use of vehicles designed for easy and efficient single-person manning, could well lead to distribution savings for the company of about 10 per cent.



Keeping electronic tabs on the trucks: Allan Clark, one of Whitbread's distribution managers

## Idea came in from the cold

Cold-store loading techniques have set a new standard for freshness

Modern distribution techniques in Britain have evolved through a series of revolutions and they are still continuing.

One of the latest examples of the process is at Northfleet in Kent, where Tibbett & Britten, a specialist in retailing distribution, has a 100,000 sq ft warehouse serving the regional needs of Sainsbury, the leading supermarket chain. The warehouse operates at ambient temperature, but now a £3.7 million cold store has been built alongside that breaks new ground in the handling of frozen foods.

A further £1.25 million has been spent on a score of tractor-trailer trucking units and on temperature-controlled trailers developed to dovetail with the Northfleet cold store system. The key features of the cold store, which has just started serving 65 Sainsbury outlets in the South-East,

are the specially developed insulated pods on the side of the building — "cold locks" to keep in the cold. The trailers, with an internal temperature of minus 25C, dock on to the pods to form an airtight seal. An inner door opens to let in cold air from the store, which also operates at the same low temperature.

This dispenses with a conventional unloading area where the temperature would typically be at freezing point. If frozen goods can be kept at a constant minus 25C throughout, they will not deteriorate.

More than 60 probes monitor temperature inside the cold store — the most sophisticated monitoring system in Britain, according to Lowfield Distribution, Tibbett & Britten's grocery trade logistics arm.

Tibbett & Britten also has many non-food retailing distribution operations, particularly in clothing and textiles where clients include C & A, Harrods, Knickerbox, Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury. Last year, the group bought Sibcock Express, Britain's biggest independent car carrier, delivering in dual-deck "Queen Mary" trailers.

It was a Tibbett invention to hang clothing full length in

specially-made vans instead of packing dresses and suits into boxes as was done until the late 1950s. In the company's early days, John Tibbett hit on the idea while delivering dresses. He left them on their hangers, hooking them on to several broom handles at the top of an old van's interior.

B & Q, Britain's biggest DIY retailer, is another client of Tibbett & Britten, which is in the process of consolidating its B & Q operation from three operating centres to a single vast complex at Preston Brook, near Runcorn on Merseyside. The warehouse will supply all 280 B & Q stores around Britain. Eventually, Runcorn is expected to carry 85 per cent of all B & Q's stock.

There is some symmetry in Lowfield's pioneering cold store being dedicated to Sainsbury because the grocer was the first to start develop-

ing the modern methods of integrated distribution. Safeway, part of Argyl, was another early exponent while both Tesco and Asda subsequently invested heavily in modern systems. The hall-

mark of these systems are big composite warehouses which can serve an entire region, dealing with goods at various temperatures, ranging from fruit and vegetables to chilled and frozen foods. Typically a national supermarket chain will cover the country with six to eight composite warehouses.

This scale of centralisation goes hand in hand with the volume buying typical of the leading supermarket chains and the increasing use of electronic data interchange to speed ordering, forecasting and invoicing.

Soon enough the distribution revolution in retailing will be complete in Britain except for fine-tuning, according to John Harvey, the chairman of Tibbett & Britten. However, the growing European dimension for British retailers should mean more opportunities for those providing them with the distribution systems.

DEREK HARRIS



French connection: opportunities on the Continent

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# Hill leads British interest in Formula One motor racing season



Flying the flag: Hill replaces Mansell as the focus for British hopes as Williams plan to maintain their domination of the Formula One scene in the new season which opens with the South African grand prix on Sunday

## Wild-card Senna remains ace in grand prix pack

Odd though it may seem to cast a three-times world champion as the wild card in the approaching Formula One season, the uncertainties enveloping Ayrton Senna make him a natural for the role.

He will drive for McLaren in the opening race at the Kyalami track here on Sunday; that much is assured. But the team announced his starting berth alongside American newcomer, Michael Andretti, only this week and Senna still refuses to confirm that he will take part in any of the races after the South African grand prix.

But after a winter of deliberation pondering a disappointing 1992 season and the withdrawal of Honda from the McLaren set-up, it seems the Brazilian may be nearing agreement with the team owner, Ron Dennis.

As he prepared to fly to Johannesburg this week, Senna looked relaxed, sauntering through the duty-free shops at Heathrow Airport. He hinted that he was close to a deal.

"Last week we did some good tests and had some good results with the car," he said. "I was surprised at how well it performed and I think the whole team was surprised."

"I think the fact that I am going to South Africa is the best sign of commitment that I could give. We will have to continue discussions after the South African grand prix but for now we have decided to concentrate on the race and put everything else behind us temporarily, so that we will not be distracted."

Even if Senna does commit himself to a full season's racing with McLaren's new MP4/8 car, though, he may not be able to challenge the two leading teams, Williams and Benetton, seriously. He did record the fastest time all winter in practice at Silverstone last week, but McLaren are thought to be



Oliver Holt surveys the personalities who will dominate the forthcoming months as the grand prix circus rolls into South Africa for the new season

having teething troubles with the new technology on their car.

The man to beat, by common consent, is Alain Prost, back on the Formula One scene after a year's sabbatical. Whether he is refreshed is another matter. The Frenchman has been at the centre of a long winter of discontent almost unprecedented in the sport's recent history and the shadow of disciplinary action still hangs over him.

1993 GRAND PRIX

Mar 14: South Africa, Kyalami  
Mar 28: Brazil, Interlagos  
Apr 11: European, Donington  
Apr 25: San Marino, Imola  
May 9: Spain, Barcelona  
May 23: Monaco, Monte Carlo  
Jun 13: Canada, Montreal  
Jul 4: France, Magny-Cours  
Jul 11: Britain, Silverstone  
Jul 25: Germany, Hockenheim  
Aug 15: Hungary, Hungaroring  
Aug 29: Belgium, Spa  
Sep 12: Italy, Monza  
Sep 26: Portugal, Estoril  
Oct 24: Japan, Suzuka  
Nov 7: Australia, Adelaide

With Nigel Mansell's acrimonious defection to IndyCar racing, infighting over the increasing influence of sophisticated technology and the doubts surrounding Senna, Prost's return was a beacon of light for the sport, a familiar name to wrest the attention away from Surfers Paradise and the Indianapolis 500.

Then Prost spoke out of turn. He criticised Fisa, the sport's governing body, and, in particular, its president, Max Mosley, and vice-president of marketing, Bernie Ecclestone.

Chief among countless other ramifications is the possibility that the three-times world champion will be suspended "for bringing the sport into disrepute" at a Formula One world council meeting in Paris four days after the race at Kyalami.

"I do not believe you or your sponsors can control him," Mosley said in a leaked letter to Frank Williams, for whose team Prost now drives. "Even if he cannot be quoted directly, he will probably find a way to poison the atmosphere just at the time we most need to improve it."

Strong stuff. It is rumoured the federation will consider banning the Frenchman for four races. Cynics say Fisa may be keen to enforce his temporary removal in an effort to foster fiercer competition and eliminate for a while the man who could be the season's dominant driver.

Their wariness of Prost, of course, presumes he is ready to start where Mansell left off: that, at 38, he retains the same hunger for victory and that Williams have maintained their advantage over the chasing pack.

In fact, there are hopes that this year's championship may be genuinely competitive and the chief beneficiary of any disciplinary measures that may be visited on Prost could be Benetton's brilliant 24-year-old German, Michael Schumacher.

Schumacher, a charger in the mould of Gilles Villeneuve, has recorded testing times consistently close to Prost's throughout the winter and Benetton, the most im-



Key players: Senna, above, and Prost, whose renewed rivalry will be an important draw



proved team of 1992, seem to have adapted effortlessly to their new active suspension B193A car.

With the extra advice and experience provided by the newly recruited veteran, Riccardo Patrese, Schumacher should improve on his single victory and third place in the drivers' championship last year.

The unknown quantity in the 1993 equation is Damon Hill, the son of the late Graham Hill, the only man to win the world championship, Le Mans and the Indianapolis 500. Even before Hill Jr

has raced a Williams, he has repaired some of the damage done by Mansell's departure by creating a new focus of media interest, a new British Formula One hero in waiting.

Hill has performed well in testing but his achievements in Formula 3000 were modest and, although he is driving what is still likely to be the best car, he may suffer from lack of race-craft against more seasoned competitors.

Nevertheless, Hill heads a lively quintet of British drivers. When Lotus unveiled their new car in London last month, the team managing

director, Peter Collins, who discovered Mansell for Lotus in 1980, said he sees many of the same qualities in Johnny Herbert.

Martin Brundle has bounced back from being discarded by Benetton in favour of Patrese and then overlooked by Williams when Mansell went to the United States. He has formed a harmonious partnership with Mark Blundell, at Ligier.

With Derek Warwick bringing his inimitable enthusiasm to Footwork, it could yet be an auspicious year for the British.

Fisa's summary imposition of modest cost-cutting reforms designed to help the smaller teams in 1993 and more swingeing ones for 1994 to arrest the march of hi-tech "driver aids" like active suspension and traction control is still bitterly resented by Dennis, the McLaren owner, and Frank Williams, who have invested heavily in the areas under attack.

The longer-term reforms should make significant inroads into the huge advantages enjoyed by the wealthier teams over their smaller counterparts and re-

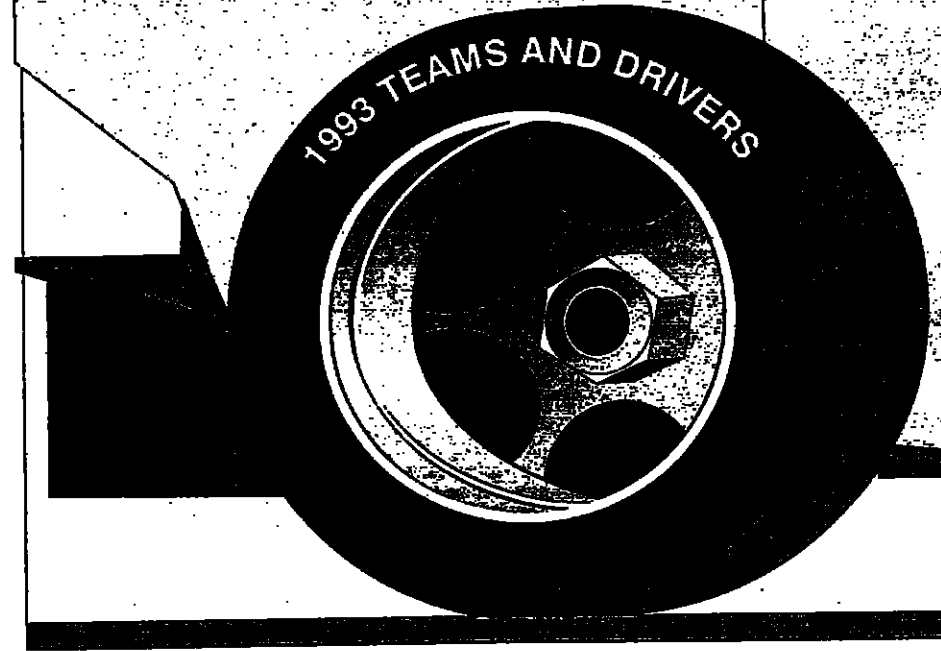
store grand prix to motor racing spectacles rather than triumphal processions for one dominant team.

If those concerns are not tackled, then some fear Formula One could be overtaken by the Mansell IndyCar roadshow. The rival codes compete on alternate Sundays and comparisons will be easy and immediate.

Flavio Briatore, the Benetton managing director, says: "If we make F1 more entertaining, we will kill Indy completely. If we don't, maybe in two years time Indy will kill us."

Car no	Driver	Country	Team	Age	Races	Wins
0	Damon Hill	GB	Canon-Williams-Renault	32	2	0
1	Alain Prost	Fr	Canon-Williams-Renault	38	183	44
2	Ayrton Senna	Br	Canon-Williams-Renault	33	14	0
3	Ukyo Katayama	Jap	Tyrrell-Yamaha	33	161	0
4	Andrea de Cesaris	It	Tyrrell-Yamaha	34	22	1
5	Michael Schumacher	Ger	Camel Benetton Ford	24	0	0
6	Riccardo Patrese	It	Camel Benetton Ford	36	240	6
7	Michael Andretti	US	Marlboro McLaren Ford	30	0	0
8	Ayrton Senna	Br	Marlboro McLaren Ford	33	142	26
9	Derek Warwick	GB	Footwork Mugen Honda	38	131	0
10	Aguri Suzuki	Jap	Footwork Mugen Honda	38	42	0
11	Alessandro Zanardi	It	Team Castrol Lotus	25	4	0
12	Johnny Herbert	GB	Team Castrol Lotus	28	31	0
13	Rubens Barrichello	Br	Steele Jordan Hart	23	0	0
14	Ivan Capelli	It	Steele Jordan Hart	29	0	0
15	Jean-Marc Gounon	Fr	March	30	0	0
16	Jan Lammers	Hol	March	36	23	0
17	Philippe Alliot	Fr	Larousse Lamborghini	38	58	0
18	Eric Comas	Fr	Larousse Lamborghini	32	28	0
19	Michele Alboreto	It	Lola BMS Ferrari	35	189	5
20	Luca Badoer	It	Lola BMS Ferrari	32	0	0
21	Christian Fittipaldi	Br	Minardi	29	0	0
22	Fabrizio Barbazza	It	Minardi	22	10	0
23	Martin Brundle	GB	Ligier Renault	32	99	0
24	Mark Blundell	GB	Ligier Renault	26	14	0
25	Jean Alesi	Fr	Ferrari	28	85	0
26	Gerd Berger	Aus	Ferrari	32	131	8
27	Karl Wendlinger	Aus	Sauber	26	1	0
28	J.J. Lehto	Fin	Sauber	27	38	0

Mika Hakkinen (Fr, 24, 30, 0) has been nominated for McLaren and could drive in championship races. There is no No.1 car as the world champion, Nigel Mansell, is not driving.



## Beaumont content to let Jodami do the talking

Alan Lee visits a remote north Yorkshire farm and finds confidence running high in the 4-1 second favourite for next Thursday's Cheltenham Gold Cup

Racing, contrary to popular conviction, does not give the privileged a monopoly on its riches. Three years ago, the Cheltenham Gold Cup was won by a one-horse Carmanham farm and, for those who believe that next week's winning trainer will not be a sophisticated Frenchman, the likeliest alternative is the very antithesis of the silver-spoon set.

There is a tale in racing of a small-time trainer being called before the stewards after the last at Hereford one day. Angry at the detention, the trainer was politely told that even the Queen Mother's horses are not exempt from enquiries. "Maybe," came the rejoinder, "but she doesn't have to milk 200 cows when she gets home."

Peter Beaumont was not that man, though until recently he might have been. "We used to milk a lot of cows," he said this week. "I was a farmer first and a trainer second. I think we've moved on now."

It does not immediately look that way in their 16th century farmhouse

while Margaret, as archetypal a farmer's wife as can be pictured, fusses over tea for her 58-year-old husband. Beaumont himself has the complexion of a man who has worked on the land in all weathers and the dress of one who is more comfortable in flat cap than taily.

It is outside, in the end box at Foulrice Farm in remote north Yorkshire, that the main reason for their change can be found. You know instinctively that this is he because, like most outstanding horses, Jodami has an indefinable presence. Beaumont nods. "He's got something about him, hasn't he? He knows he's good."

Just how good, we will discover next Thursday, but Jodami's record is already formidable. It is only three years since he made his racecourse

debut, winning a bumper at Kels, but after one season huddling, and five wins from six runs, he joined the ranks of top novice chasers last year.

This season's campaign has been carefully structured towards the Gold Cup, for which he is the 4-1 second favourite, but, surprisingly, so has his entire career. "I thought he would be top-class before we ever ran him," Beaumont said.

There is, despite the long-term confidence, a sense of wonderment in Beaumont's words. He has, after all, only been a public trainer for six years and has never had as many as 20 horses in his care. His low profile is not something he has had to work at. Living where he does, two miles from the nearest shop, pub, village, and how he does, which could hardly

be less extrovert, Beaumont has crept up quietly on the consciousness of National Hunt racing. Twelve winners so far this season equals his previous best. In point-to-point circles, however, his name is still spoken with reverence.

He grew up on his father's farm, near Harrogate, horses always around him, and when he moved into Foulrice, 25 years ago, he trained a few point-to-pointers for friends. Beaumont had once ridden himself but stopped, aged 20, after several bouts of concussion. And so the training instinct emerged.

Many trophies in the stone-floored lounge are testimony to his success but it took much persuasion from connections of J.J. Henry, Beaumont's 1991 Aintree winner, for him to take out a public licence.

J.J. Henry retired a year ago but mention of his win in the John Hughes Trophy still brings a smile to Beaumont's face. He was ridden that

day by his daughter, Anthea, now out of hospital after bruising her heart and lungs in an alarming fall at Edinburgh last month.

J.J. Henry also ran at Cheltenham in 1989. Beaumont's only previous runner at the festival which, he admits, he has attended only twice. I asked if he would be doing it in style this time and received an old-fashioned look in reply. "I'll be driving the horsebox down myself, as usual," he said.

Rain would be welcome next week but Beaumont has no fears because Jodami, bought as an afterthought on the recommendation of Frank Berry, has no obvious flaw. "My horse has a turn of foot and the likely fast pace will suit him," he says.

Despite himself, and his pronounced ordinariness, Beaumont admits to an inner excitement at the prospect. Doubtless, this is matched by the lads in his yard who, a year ago, decided that the stable star could win the 1993 Gold Cup. They duly backed him at 50-1.

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

#### DEGAUSS

(a) To protect (a ship) against magnetic mines by encircling it with an electrically charged cable (called the degaussing belt or girdle), so as to demagnetise it. From de- + the name of K. F. Gauss, a German scientist, 1777-1855.

#### TAMBAROORA

(a) The name of a town in New South Wales, used to designate a bar game in which the winner buys drinks for the players, also in combination as Tambaroora muster. "Each man of a party throws a shilling, or whatever sum may be mutually agreed upon, into a hat. Dice are then produced, and each man takes three throws. The man who throws highest keeps the whole of the subscribed capital, and out of it pays for the drinks of the rest. The advantage of the preceding lies in this: Where drinks are charged at sipence, the subscription is double that amount for each. Thus if ten Nuts go in for a Tambaroora, with nobblers at sipence, the winner pockets five shillings by the transaction."

#### IDEMPOTENT

(b) Of a quantity or element  $x$ : having the property that  $x \times x = x$ , where  $x$  represents multiplication or some other (specified) binary operation. Also applied to an operator or set for which this is true for any element  $a$ .

#### ROSH CHODESH

(b) Or Rosh Hodesh, a Jewish half-holiday observed at the appearance of the New Moon, the beginning of the Jewish month, from the Hebrew for "head of the month".

### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nc6+ Kc7 2 d8/Q+ Rd8 3 Qxd8+ Kf7 4 Nf8+ Kg7 5 Qe7 mate.











**BBC1**

6.00 **Business Breakfast** (87508) 7.00 **Breakfast News** (75257546)

9.45 **Rose King** Game show (s) (5337109)

10.00 **News** regional news and weather (6221481) 10.05 **Playdays** For the very young (s) (7349701)

10.30 **Good Morning** ... with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series (5691318)

12.15 **Pebble Mill** Judi Squires takes to veteran Hollywood actor Kirk Douglas (s) (6651072) 12.55 **Regional News** and weather (25983411)

1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) Weather (21879)

1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceefax) (s) (7894909) 1.50 **First Later First** Word game show (s) (7439035)

2.15 **Film: Thursday's Game** (1971) starring Gene Wilder and Bob Newhart. A sparkling made-for-television comedy about two friends whose regular games of poker play house with their respective marriages and careers. Directed by Robert Moore (s) (623782)

3.50 **Rupert** (r) (288917) 3.55 **Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grains** (s) (6054850) 4.10 **Jeopardy!** Nick Winton reads the own story, *Fish Tale* (s) (6822773) 4.25 **The New York Big Show** (s) (6826888) 4.30 **Dizzy Heights** Comedy series. (Ceefax) (s) (3037888)

4.55 **Newsround** (612430) 5.05 **Blue Peter**. The winners of the *Blue Peter* Lightbulb Cartoon Character competition are announced. (Ceefax) (s) (6618121)

5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (504459) Northern Ireland: *Inside Ulster*

6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (453)

6.30 **Regional News** Magazines (411). Northern Ireland: *Neighbours*

7.00 **Top of the Pops** (s) (2585)

7.30 **EndEaters**. (Ceefax) (s) (695)



Land invasion: close-up on the crab (8.00pm)

8.00 **Wildlife On One: They Came From the Sea** (r). (Ceefax) (s) See Choice (1633)

8.30 **Side by Side**. Comedy series starring Gareth Hunt and Louise. An incompetent neighbour. (Ceefax) (s) (6040)

9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (2595)

9.30 **Cheff** Last in the comedy series starring Lenny Henry as the cantankerous cook Gareth Blackstock, here accepting a challenge to create a "nouveau caribbe" cuisine. (Ceefax) (s) (41072)

10.00 **Question Time** chaired by Peter Sissons. This week's guests are Sir Peter Hall, Bridget Rosewell, managing director of Business Schools, and MPs Malcolm Rifkind and Paul Boateng (6427). Northern Ireland: Spotlight 10.30 Question

11.00 **World Figure Skating Championships**. The men's free programme from Prague (486430)

11.50 **Call to Prayer**. The third of four programmes in which Muslim clerics discuss their religion and the Faith of Ramadan (s) (488188) Northern Ireland: 11.30 **Call to Prayer** 11.45 **The Wheelie Bin Race** 11.55-12.55 **World Figure Skating Championships**

12.05 **News** (1564831). Ends at 12.10

2.15-2.45 **BBC Select: Executive Business Club**. Scrambled (80831) 3.00-4.00 **RCN Nursing Update** (s) (70539)

**BBC2**

6.45 **Open University: Newton's Present-day Success** (481850) 7.10 **Musicals: A Question of Fuel Supply** (3979188) 7.35 **Technology: Eureka** (7078091)

8.00 **Breakfast News** (333324) 8.15 **Westminster (478966)**

9.00 **Daytime** On Two. Educational programmes including: for children, 9.45 *You and Me* (4814140) 1.20 *The Adventures of Spot* (2572634) 1.25 *Bum* (8711245) 1.35 *Bunbury* (8634850)

2.00 **News** and weather followed by *You and Me* (r) (2347312) 2.15 **Advice Show**. Welfare and public services magazine (9758121)

3.00 **News** (Ceefax) and weather (3928508) followed by *Westminster Live* (5452870) 3.50 **News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (288745)

4.00 **World Figure Skating Championships** from Prague (4324)

5.00 **Phunder**. Ian Haplo, the editor of *Private Eye*, dips into the BBC's television archives and selects his favourite clips (r) (3081)

5.30 **Food and Drink**. Includes classic recipes handed down by two British families for generations (r) (s) (189)

6.00 **Film: Dragonella** (1957) starring Burt Reynolds and Dennis O'Hare. A comedy western about a wagon train being pursued by Apaches desperate to get their hands on the cargo of repeating rifles. Directed by Harold Schuster (30188). Wales: Japanese Language and 6.30 **Melting Time** 7.00 **Advice Show**

7.30 **First Sight** Barling Med. Fiona Smeets reports on the moves to reform the Dangerous Dogs Act (237). Wales: Dad's Army. East: Matter of Fact; Midlands: Midlands Report; North: North-east; South: Close Up North; South: Southern Eye; South-west: Close Up; West: Close Up West

8.00 **The Snow Show**. Muriel Gray tries the new American craze of telemark skiing (6275)

8.30 **Top Gear**. Jeremy Clarkson road tests the new Aston Martin Vantage and concludes his report on the Alaska Highway (3782)



Madonna clone: Jennifer Saunders (9.00pm)

9.00 **French and Saunders**. Dawn and Jennifer pay tribute to Fleetwood Mac and go to bed with Madonna. With Jane Asher and music from Raw Sex. (Ceefax) (s) (7958)

9.30 **A Labour of Love**. (Ceefax) See Choice (712169)

10.10 **The Staggering Stories of Ferdinand de Borgia**. Surrealist comedy (s) (464189)

10.30 **Newsnight** presented by Jeremy Paxman (204527)

11.15 **The Late Show** (s) See Choice (584633)

11.55 **Weather**. (404102) 12.00 **Jeopardy!** Open University programmes previewed (1563102)

12.05 **A Bigger Europe for the Smaller Business**. Three British businesses as they prepared for the single market (2489676). Ends 12.30

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode**

The numbers next to each TV programme listing the Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your VCR to record a programme. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video recorders. For more details of VideoPlus+ on 085 123 04 04. VideoPlus+ is a registered trademark of the Video PlusCode system. (TM) and Video PlusCode are trademarks of General Marketing Ltd.



Eau de: Mary Goldring reports (C4, 9.00pm)

**The Goldring Audit**  
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Mary Goldring's report on the water industry asks whether we are getting value for money since privatisation. Her answer is that we are not but her chief critics are not greedy capitalists but bureaucrats in Brussels. Bills will go up by one-third, she predicts, to meet regulations that are expensive and unproven. As Goldring colourfully puts it, Brussels is demanding that we flush our lavatories with the equivalent of champagne. But Goldring is critical of the industry as well as offering a single effective voice for the consumer and for high-handedness in cutting off poor families who cannot afford the bills. As usual Goldring's reporting is crisp and incisive and she is not prepared to take PK flannel for an answer. Nor does she flinch from walking through a Victorian sewer.

**Wildlife on One: They Came From the Sea**  
BBC1, 8.00pm

Millions of crabs, Sir David Attenborough informs us, have been leaving their watery habitats to take up residence on the land. They are to be found in deserts, in trees and even on suburban lawns. Although the invasion has been taking place for 35 million years, it has apparently gone almost unnoticed. Thanks to television and a brilliant cameraman Mike Potts, it is unnoticed no longer. Potts takes his lens to the mangrove swamps of Central America, the Australian outback and Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean. Even allowing for modern technology like the use of a crane to get the crab in the half an hour that we are ever likely to do in real life. The bonus is a wildlife film with hardly any violence.

**The Late Show**  
BBC2, 11.15pm

Tonight's edition profiles the former wild man of rock, Frank Zappa. Now in his fifties and suffering from cancer, he is wild no longer. He has given up touring and has turned himself to composing and mastering his music. He has a huge archive at his home in Los Angeles. The film offers a brisk trot through Zappa's career, stressing his debt to the classical avant-garde and his determination to be his own man. Colleagues pay tribute to his ability to get the best out of fellow musicians. This is not a critique. Any assessment of Zappa's contribution to popular music must await another time. We do get the flavour of a talented iconoclast who has never conformed and has no intention of starting now.

**A Labour of Love: Happy Days**  
BBC2, 9.30pm

Steve Humphries's compelling foray into British social history continues with a look at family leisure in the 1930s. Once more class is a revealing analytical tool. There was all the difference between the wakes weeks, which middle and more the middle classes had, and the middle class. The public-private distinction also applied at home. Working class kids played in the street, while the middle classes had back gardens. Hop-picking, watching football and the rituals of Christmas are other spare time pursuits illuminated by a mixture of personal memories and well-chosen archive film.

**ITV LONDON**

6.00 **GMTV** with Michael Wilson, Eamonn Holmes and Fiona Armstrong (5949430)

9.25 **Jeopardy!** Quiz game show (3833685) 9.55 **London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7325121)

10.00 **The Time ... The Place ...** (1951546)

10.35 **This Morning** Weekday family magazine (3071616)

12.10 **The Fiddlers**. For the very young (6133053)

12.30 **Lunchtime News** with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Ruseley (Teletext) Weather (425585) 1.05 **London Today** (Teletext) and weather (5746817)

1.15 **Home and Away**. (Teletext) (974898) 1.45 **A Country Practice** (s) (973158)

2.15 **The View**. The first of a new series presented by Lucy Gossan in which viewers can have their say about the programmes and people on television (568555) 2.45 **Take the High Road**. Highlands-based drama serial (568633)

3.10 **ITN News** headlines (383614) 3.15 **London Today** (Teletext) and weather (3938985) 3.20 **Afternoon News** (3938985)

3.50 **Where's Wally?** Cartoon (r) (3115782) 4.15 **Mike and Angelo**. American comedy drama serial (s) (501521) 4.45 **Top Gun Adventures** (3057985)

5.00 **Cartoon** featuring Bugs Bunny (2756633)

5.10 **News and Weather** (r). (Teletext) (682186)

5.40 **Early Evening News** with John Smeeth. (Teletext) Weather (105237)

6.00 **London Tonight** presented by Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. The guests include Charlie Moore, described as the new Diana Ross (31695)

7.00 **Emmerdale**. (Teletext) (7053)



Counselling the bereaved: Liz Hopper (7.30pm)

7.30 **3D** presented by Julia Somerville. This week's edition is devoted to the emotive subjects of miscarriage and stillbirth (s) (661)

8.00 **The Bill: School of Hard Knocks**. Sun Hill officers have to deal with stolen milk bottles, counterfeit money and a missing child. (Teletext) (6701)

8.30 **Minder: Cars and Pints and Pains**. Arthur, having trouble selling his second hand cars, decides to go into the rental business (79148)

9.30 **Disguise**. The third of a six-part series in which investigative reporters take on new identities to uncover stories. This week they join a time-share company run by a convicted fraudster (s) (36140)

10.00 **News** at Ten with Trevor McDonald. (Teletext) Weather (36481) 10.30 **London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (135795)

10.40 **Big City**. London's entertainments (s) (583546)

11.15 **Film: License to Drive** (1988) starring Corey Haim. Corey, about to become a teenager, despises his driving test and impress the girl of his dreams. But he fails and is left with a grandfathers' Cadillac. Directed by Greg Beaman (261343)

12.55 **The Twisted Zone: The Last Defender of Camelot**. Richard Kiley and Jeremy Agutter star in this tale of the supernatural (6622164)

1.30 **Hollydays**. A look at the Christmas season (59980)

2.00 **America's Top Ten** (s) (64473)

2.30 **Donahue**. A discussion on junk food (55744)

3.30 **Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Diamonds Aren't Forever**. A tale with a twist, starring George Lazenby (r) (67500)

4.00 **Entertainment** (r) (s) (8473)

4.30 **Riviera**. French drama serial (17144)

5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Tim Neilson (33305)

**CHANNEL 4**

5.50 **Sesame Street** (r) (637609) 6.45 **Dennis**. Animated adventures of a mischievous boy and his friends (9467237)

7.00 **The Big Breakfast** presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (37430)

9.00 **You Bet Your Life**. American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (23188)

9.30 **Schools** (619817)

12.00 **The Parliament Programme**. Anne Perkins with news of business from both Houses (86904)

12.30 **Sesame Street**. Early learning series (68072) 1.30 **Uit On Young children's entertainment** (s) (53817)

2.00 **Film: State Fair** (1945) starring Jeanne Crain and Dana Andrews. A Rogers and Hammerstein musical about a family spending the day at the Iowa State Fair. Directed by Walter Lang (730411)

3.50 **Labyrinth**. Animation by Brian Janvan (r) (2872527)

3.55 **Food File**. A repeat of yesterday's programme which included an interview with the health secretary Virginia Bottomley (s) (170371)

4.30 **Countdown**. Richard Whiteley presents another round of the words and numbers game. (Teletext) (s) (904)

5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**. The guests are Steven Callahan, who spent 75 days on a small raft, and James Naipha who was trapped on a raft the size of a double bed for four months with three other men (s) (9067035)

5.50 **The Magic Roundabout**. Classic children's series, narrated by Nigel Planer (r) (602027)

6.00 **The Word** — *Access All Areas*. Includes Mark Lammie interviewing the soul group Jade (s) (169)

6.30 **Gamesmaster**. Video and computer games show. With Dominic Diamond and Patrick Moore (121)

7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zennab Edwards. (Teletext) Weather (660056)

7.50 **Comment**. John Smeeth anticipating tomorrow's Red Nose Day, questions what is achieved by giving money to charity (169256)

8.00 **Close To Home**. A report from Bristol on the burgeoning influence of a local church-based pressure group (4343)

8.30 **The Secret Garden** ... *The Electric Light*. Tim Hunkin with all you need to know about the electric light but were afraid to ask. (Teletext) (3850)

9.00 **The Goldring Audit**. See Choice (3188)

10.00 **Drop the Dead Donkey**. Excellent topical comedy series set in a television newsroom. Starring David S. Jones, Robert Duncan and Victoria Wicks (s) (36463)



Tail tales: Harry Enfield explains (10.30pm)

10.30 **Harry Enfield's Guide to the Opera**. The second programme in a six-part lighthearted look at the world of opera, this week investigating why some of the plots are so ridiculous (s) (588904)

11.05 **The Avengers** (b/w). Classic spoof agent series starring Patrick Macnee, Ian Gower, Blackman and, this week, Peter Sellers of *Last of the Summer Wine* fame (186492)

12.05 **Dispatches**. A repeat of yesterday's programme on the council tax (329676)

1.00 **The Dick Powell Theatre: The Legend** (b/w). A thriller about a newspaperman who uses a visually handicapped former prize fighter to help him uncover a sinister crime syndicate. Starring Sammy Davis Jr and Everett Sloane (r) (5260270). Ends at 1.55

**VARIATIONS**

**ANGLIA**

As London except 3.30-3.50 *The Young Doctors* (712525) 3.50-4.00 *The Young Doctors* 4.00-4.15 *Home and Away* (663986) 4.15-4.30 *Anglia News* (562701) 4.40 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 11.15 *Weekend* (425820) 11.40 *Anglia News* (562701) 11.55 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 12.00 *Anglia News* (562701) 1.05 *Weekend* (425820) 1.15 *Anglia News* (562701) 1.30 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 1.45 *Anglia News* (562701) 1.55 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 2.00 *Anglia News* (562701) 2.15 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 2.30 *Anglia News* (562701) 2.45 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 2.55 *Anglia News* (562701) 3.00 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 3.15 *Anglia News* (562701) 3.30 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 3.45 *Anglia News* (562701) 4.00 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 4.15 *Anglia News* (562701) 4.30 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 4.45 *Anglia News* (562701) 4.55 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 5.00 *Anglia News* (562701) 5.15 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 5.30 *Anglia News* (562701) 5.45 *Anglia Tonight* (57258) 5.55 *Anglia News* (562701) 6.00 *Anglia 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THURSDAY MARCH 11 1993

Board shows more concern over sloppy appearance of England tour side than its poor play

## Dexter stays on after easy passage



Dexter: no inquest

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TED Dexter kept his job as chairman of the England cricket committee yesterday after a meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board that vented more anger on his players' scruffy dress than shoddy play during their spectacularly unsuccessful tour of India and Sri Lanka.

On the same day that England went down to another embarrassing defeat — losing a one-day international to Sri Lanka for the first time in 11 years — Dexter, whose position had seemed in jeopardy, emerged from the spring meeting of his employers at Lord's to say: "I've no desire to stand down and have

felt no pressure to do so because nobody talked to me about it."

Indeed, of the 90 minutes that the county club chairmen spent discussing England matters yesterday, more time was devoted to the image and appearance of the team on tour than to a dissection of the 3-0 defeat in the Test series against India. The captaincy issue was not even touched on, said Dexter, and David Gower, whose non-selection caused such widespread fury, did not receive a mention.

At least there was a more heated reaction from the team manager, Keith Fletcher. "When are we going to start doing the bloody job?" he asked after England's 52-run defeat in Colombo.

"Three-and-a-half months ago, we left England as a good side," he said. "They are all good players, they wouldn't be here on this tour if they were not. But we have got to start getting it right."

After what has passed on the tour, some delegates at Lord's might have welcomed a resignation speech from Dexter. But it seems that nobody came up with a suitable alternative. Dexter will see out the 12 months of his contract, involving a six-Test home series against Australia and a tour to the West Indies. Dennis Amis was also re-elected as the fourth selector.

Alan Smith, chief executive of the board, said that the debate on England matters had been

"lengthy, wide-ranging and, above all, constructive".

He added: "There was no acrimony and no demands for resignation, but disquiet was expressed about the appearance of the team and their cricketing skills."

In admitting the image problem, Dexter disclosed he had already spoken on the subject by telephone to the tour manager, Bob Beimet. "He agreed that the team had slipped on a couple of occasions," Dexter said. "Subsequently, he has written to the board to say the players have been made aware of their responsibilities."

It may be that certain extraneous sponsorship deals, obtained by the board's marketing department, will

be dropped in the wake of an enquiry into dress standards by the England committee. But Dexter must have been grateful that the subject overshadowed graver cricketing concerns.

He spoke of advances that were made on tour, notably from the form of Graeme Hick and Chris Lewis, but must have been at his most silver-tongued to convince the board that these gains, when weighed against the evidence of results, foreshadow a brighter future.

Dexter refused to be drawn on who will captain England this summer, though his personal support for Graham Gooch is unwavering. "It will be on the agenda for the

April committee meeting, although we won't necessarily make an immediate appointment," he said.

Among decisions taken, the board is anxious to ensure improved scheduling of future tours, allowing more first-class games prior to the international cricket. To allow England players a proper break, they will also be rejecting an invitation to play in a one-day tournament in Calcutta in October.

Groundsmen in this country will additionally be encouraged, at their annual meeting next week, to produce pitches that turn, a response to the ineptitude of England's batting against Indian spin.

England lose, page 46

## Heathrow nursery producing elegant high-fliers

By PETER AYKROYD

NOT far from the main runway at London's biggest airport, the Heathrow-Hoechst gymnastics club yesterday celebrated the opening of a large new gymnasium to match one they built three years ago.

For all Heathrow's gymnasts, the opening of the new facility puts the seal on a highly-successful season in which they captured the British women's team title for the sixth time in nine years.

Asked yesterday how the club managed to maintain such a standard, Vincent Walduck, a director and a leading coach, said: "All our gymnasts have the chance to fulfil their potential. This gives us considerable strength in depth." The club members, who include 300 pre-school children and 130 boys, total some 800 and the coaching staff is 41 strong.

Many leading clubs concentrate on grooming a few first-class performers for national and international honours. But over the last decade, Heathrow's all-embracing strategy has also produced many world-class gymnasts.

They include Catherine Bain, Leila Brown, Dawn Parry, Laura Thomas, Rebecca Marola and Zita Lusack, a member of the national squad. Rowena Roberts, the 1992 British champion, spent seven formative years at Heathrow.

With their new building, Heathrow hope to provide the best club facilities in Europe.



Pretty maids all in a row: Vincent Walduck, the Heathrow-Hoechst chief coach, gives instructions to some of his promising pupils

## Johnson talks of new career

By JOHN GOODBODY

BEN Johnson, who last week was banned for life from athletics following a second positive drugs test, may return to competitive sport playing Canadian football for the Hamilton Tiger Cats.

The Canadian sprinter, who is considering several offers from newspapers to tell his life story, said: "The club have wanted me for five years. I think I am going to accept this time."

John Michahuk, the Hamilton Tiger Cats chairman, refused to confirm or deny that his team was interested in giving Johnson a contract. He said: "We never discuss players in whom we might be interested and we have not spoken to Ben. We know he can run and he has always been very popular in Hamilton. It would certainly be very interesting to see him play."

Johnson had made his statement in an interview with the Austrian daily newspaper *Kurier*. Talking about his positive dope test for testosterone, the male hormone, he said that he had been "duped" by Canadian officials. "They have always hated me. In their eyes I had become too fast again."

In the interview, Johnson reiterated that he was innocent of taking drugs in January, when he was found positive in one of the three tests he had undergone in Canada. The other two were negative. During the government enquiry in 1989, the year after

he was stripped of his gold medal and world record at the Olympic Games in Seoul for taking anabolic steroids, Johnson admitted knowingly taking performance-enhancing substances for several years.

He has insisted that since he returned from his initial two-year ban in January 1991 he has not taken drugs, but he will not appeal against the ruling of the International Amateur Athletic Federation announced last Friday. He accepted that he would "never be seen on a track again".

Dallas Cowboys, the Super Bowl champions, will play the Detroit Lions at Wembley stadium on August 8 as part of the National Football League's pre-season American Bowl international games.

The San Francisco 49ers face the Pittsburgh Steelers at Montjuic stadium in Barcelona on August 1 and the Buffalo Bills play the Minnesota Vikings in the Olympic stadium in Berlin on August 7. Outside Europe, the New Orleans Saints take on the Philadelphia Eagles in Tokyo on August 1.

"We are excited by our 1993 American Bowl line-up and welcome Barcelona to the NFL international stage," Paul Tagliabue, the NFL commissioner, said. "The addition of one of the world's great cosmopolitan cities further underscores our commitment to the globalisation of American football."

## Atlanta survives threat to plans for Olympic stadium

By KATE MUIR

ATLANTA'S smooth plans for staging the 1996 Olympic Games went awry yesterday when vocal members of the city's black community tried to scupper the building of the Games' main stadium.

Having campaigned for the Olympics by saying Atlanta was a model of racial harmony, city leaders were embarrassed by the rift between white business interests and the poor, largely black community, whose homes will be razed to make way for the stadium. Only a last-minute turnaround by Martin Luther King III, the son of the

assassinated civil rights leader, kept the \$210 million stadium on course, although he insisted on significant concessions from Olympic organisers and the Atlanta Braves baseball team, who will take over the Olympic stadium in 1997.

The Braves, who have some of the highest-earning players in major league baseball, are getting a very good deal, especially since their present stadium is starting to crumble. Previously, local taxpayers were going to pay up to \$110 million over several years for maintenance of the new stadium, but that has been reduced to \$50 million and the Braves have agreed to

employ more minority workers.

The change of mind by King and other Fulton county commissioners voting on the stadium plan was the result of concentrated lobbying by Olympic and city officials.

Only a week ago, King had said: "Greed, exclusivity and elitism have become symbols of the Olympic movement — all things my father fought against — and they are all reflected in the deal before us, the rich and affluent on one side, the poor and hopeless on the other." His views met with strong support in the black community, many of whom packed yesterday's meeting

and heckled King for his sudden and surprising turnaround.

When the deal failed to go through last week, the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) threatened to locate a cheaper stadium elsewhere, to be demolished after the Games.

The approval of the Olympics-Braves deal was already a month overdue and Olympic officials were worried about getting the construction started on time. They stood tensely at the back of the meeting as another attempt was made to postpone the decision and looked relieved when it failed. In a conciliatory

gesture, the AOCG agreed to hire eight black senior administrators.

Despite various concessions, there are still rough times ahead. Protestors are planning to build a tent village to block the bulldozers when work starts on the stadium.

King tried to smooth over some of the cracks by quoting his father: "We must learn to disagree without being disagreeable."

Bob Brennan, a spokesman for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, said of the dispute: "We are able to be inharmonious because we are comfortable with each other. This was open public debate

which resulted in a compromise — part of democracy. It wasn't an issue about the Olympics. It was an issue about the Braves and the county. All the AOCG offered to do was to build the stadium and give it to the city. I'm glad it's gone ahead."

Milan formally withdrew its bid to host the 2000 Olympics yesterday, saying it had no chance of being selected because of Italy's political corruption scandals.

The Milan 2000 Committee, which had been organising the bid, said it preferred to pull out and have the option of applying for the 2004 Games.

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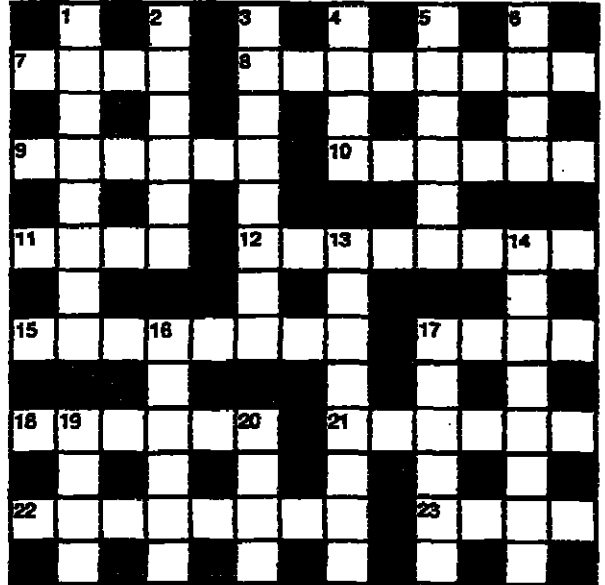
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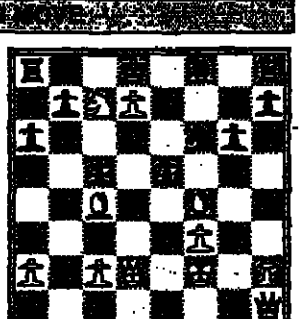
### CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3042

ACROSS  
7 Low dam (4)  
8 Unisex wages (5,3)  
9 Adjusted to size (6)  
10 Proverb (6)  
11 Sinewy, strong (4)  
12 Longtime friend (3,5)  
15 Weaker party (8)  
17 Destiny (4)  
18 Squally (6)  
21 Furore (6)  
22 Chaste (8)  
23 Large pond (4)

DOWN  
1 Scorn (8)  
2 Foamy (6)  
3 Coryza (4,4)  
4 Cat (4)  
5 Competitor (6)  
6 Hurt (4)  
13 Free French founder (2,6)  
14 Expression of refusal (2,6)  
16 Infuriate (6)  
17 Wooden hand cane (6)  
19 Journey (4)  
20 Tug (4)



Current world champion Gary Kasparov's style of play is highly reminiscent of the brilliant Alexander Alekhine who has always claimed as his intellectual mentor. This position is a variation from the game Alekhine — Levenstad, St Petersburg 1912. Here black, having seen what was coming, had already resigned. What had persuaded him that resistance was futile? White to play. (Raymond Keene)



Solution on page 44

By PHILIP HOWARD

DEGAUSS  
a. To demagnetize a ship  
b. The left-overs from cheese-making  
c. To leave on the port side  
TAMBAROORA  
a. A bar game  
b. A West Indian language  
c. A type for domestic duck

IDEMPOTENT  
a. A monarch consort  
b. Having an algebraic property  
c. A regent  
KOSH CHODESH  
a. A red pigment  
b. A Jewish half-holiday  
c. Sour cream savoury

Answers on page 44

### SOLUTIONS TO NO 3042

ACROSS: 1 Verve 4 Floated 8 Liberated 9 Key 10 ABC 11 Neurology 12 Dingo 13 Named 16 Paramount 18 New 20 Leg 21 Reprobate 22 Delayed 23 Kneel  
DOWN: 1 Villa 2 Rubicon 3 Errand of mercy 4 Fildul 5 Old boy network 6 Tokyo 7 Dry-eyed 12 Dappled 14 Mandate 15 Dumped 17 Regal 19 Wheel

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